



Coal sell-off key to Tory poll strategy

10-year price pledge for private power

● Ministers believe that privatization of the coal industry will be a key factor in the next general election

● They expect to benefit by making Mr Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, a central figure of the campaign

● The Department of Energy is to undertake intensive studies to decide the precise form of privatization

● British Coal is expected to help pave the way by securing long-term contracts with private electricity generators

By Robin Oakley and Tim Jones

The Government's timing of coal privatization is now seen as the key factor in winning the next election for the Conservatives.

Ministers believe that by putting it in the manifesto for the next Parliament, rather than rushing ahead in the present parliament, they will make Mr Arthur Scargill a central figure in the next election campaign, to the Government's benefit and to the discomfort of Mr Neil Kinnock.

Meanwhile, in a key move which would remove the biggest question mark over the privatization plans, British Coal is to make an unusual offer to supply coal to private

electricity generators for the next 10 years at prices which will increase only by the rate of inflation.

Revealing the offer to *The Times* Mr Malcolm Edwards, the company's commercial director, said: "It is now impossible to privatize British Coal in any form unless, like US colliery companies, there is a long-term coal contract with the power stations securing the income."

"I believe that these are powerful arguments why, as privatized electricity is groping its way uncertainly around this competitive environment

set up in the Department of Energy after Mr Cecil Parkinson's pledge that the coal industry will be privatized within the next Parliament to decide on the precise form in which it will be returned to the private sector.

It has not yet been decided whether the industry will be sold off as an entity or broken into sections to be privatized piecemeal.

And management-worker buyouts are not ruled out. But the programme is being left to the next Parliament for both practical and political reasons. Practically ministers are anxious for British Coal to concentrate for the moment on returning the industry to profitability.

With the industry's interest payments amounting to £440 million a year they accept that the rise in interest rates has made that a harder task than it was. But MPs now anticipate a financial reconstruction involving the writing down of a substantial proportion of those debts.

The Government also wants British Coal, without distractions, to concentrate on sorting out those long-term contracts with the generating companies being set up under the privatization of the electricity industry.

Since nearly 80 per cent of British Coal's output goes to electricity generation those contracts will have a major influence on the future shape of the coal industry.

Politically, Ministers accept that the denationalization of the pits will be the hardest fought of all the privatization battles. They were therefore anxious to ensure that they had a clear mandate from the people for that battle by putting the pledge in the next election manifesto. Doing so will have the beneficial side effect they believe, of making Mr Scargill a central focus

Intensive studies are being



Mr Parkinson: Intensive studies in his department

so new to them, they should be actively encouraged to take the long-term strategic view of their business with British Coal.

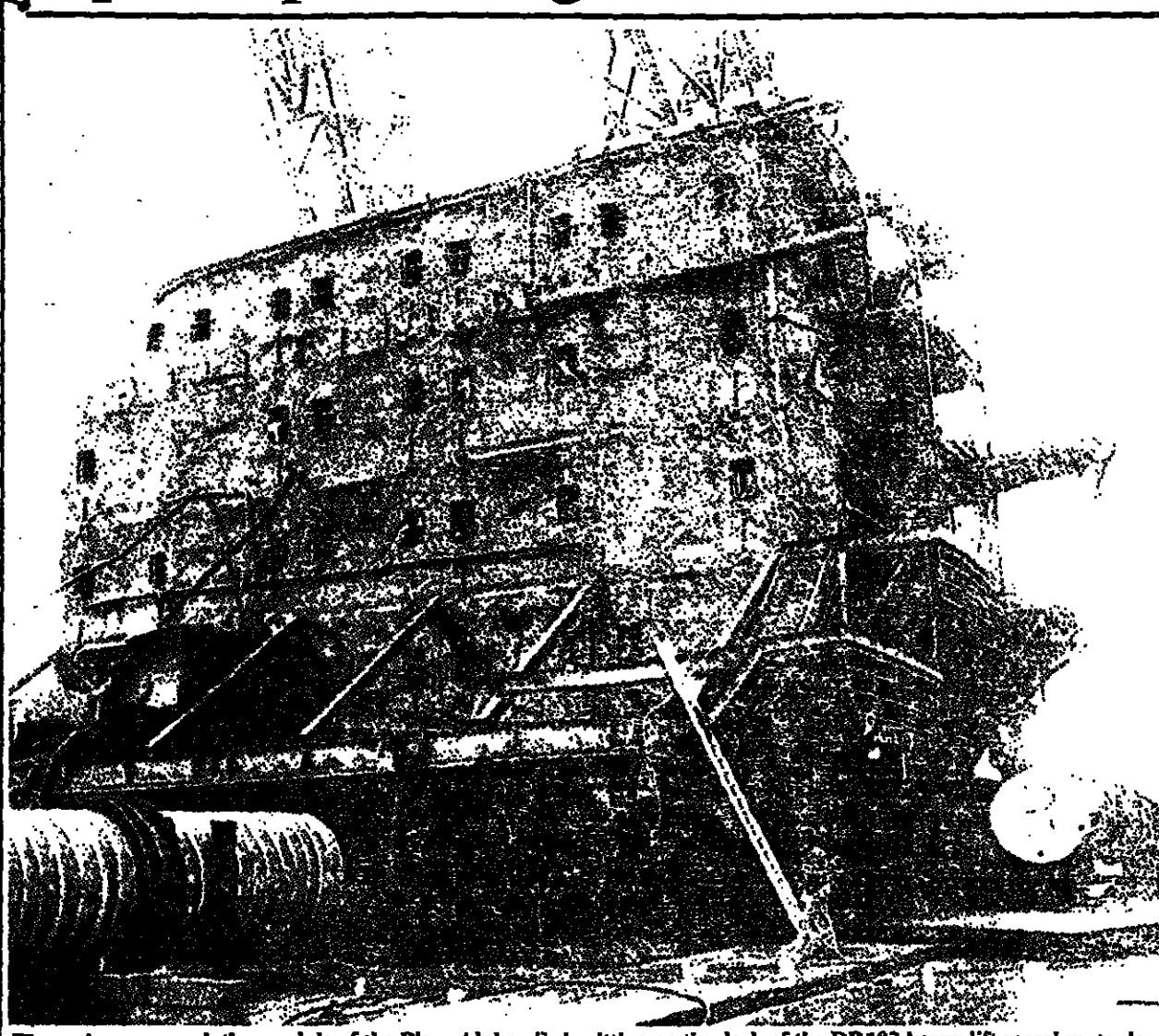
Ministers agree that long-term contracts with the generating companies are the key to the future shape of the privatized coal industry.

They know that British Coal is alarmed at the prospect of widespread imports of cheap coal and they are not prepared to ban the privatized electricity industry from making use of imports.

But they are prepared to spend money making the British coal industry competitive enough to withstand the threat of such imports.

Continued on page 24, col 5

Piper Alpha living area readied for last voyage



The main accommodation module of the Piper Alpha oil rig sitting on the deck of the DB102 heavy-lift vessel yesterday.

Orkney awaits oil rig remains

By Kerry Gill

The rusty and battered accommodation module believed to contain the bodies of most of the 112 men still missing from the Piper Alpha disaster was yesterday secured in readiness for its last voyage to the Flotta terminal in Orkney.

The huge, four-storey living quarters, weighing 1,100 tonnes, were finally lifted clear of the North Sea on Saturday after a 10-hour operation and winched on to the deck of the heavy-lift vessel, the DB102.

Exactly 101 days after the world's worst oil-industry catastrophe, which killed 167 men, the module emerged from the sea, thousands of gallons of seawater pouring from specially drilled drainage holes.

All the windows had been covered with wire mesh to stop anything escaping when the lift took place shortly before dusk. The module, which was upside down following its tumble into the sea on July 6, showed evidence of its fall to a depth of 475ft on the sea bed.

The module has been badly dented in the vicinity of cabin A1. Mr Ramsey Martin, Occidental's project engineer

Another photograph... 24

on the salvage operation, said: "The module was lying on its back buried in the mud. It had to be pulled out and levelled before we could make a lift to the surface. The main problems were the depth and the damage to the module."

After what is believed to be the most difficult salvage operation in the civilian world, he said: "I think the condition is remarkable. It says a lot for the construction rules governing the building of modules." The living quarters, he added, were in a particularly good condition, considering the huge temperatures that the module must have suffered when the explosions occurred.

Witnesses at the time told how about 100 men were inside the module, gathered in the galley, recreation area, and on the central stairwell. It is thought that they were trying to shelter from the worst of the fires.

Mr Martin said that the weather conditions had been perfect to carry out the operation. Mr Michael Close, a marine consultant for Noble Denton engineers, said: "It has been a very difficult salvage job. There have been deep salvage jobs, but nothing like this." Mr Clive Martin, Continued on page 24, col 3

Sevenoaks saplings vandalized

Vandals have destroyed saplings planted to replace historic oak trees uprooted by last year's hurricane force winds at Sevenoaks, Kent.

Three young trees donated by the Forestry Commission were snapped in half and the other four were damaged.

Local dignitaries and hundreds of spectators arriving yesterday for an anniversary ceremony at the Vine Cricket Ground found the vandalized trees, planted last December.

Mrs Ann Dawson, last year's mayor, said: "I vowed to come here a year after the storm and take a picture to show how the oaks were growing - and look what's happened. It is terrible."

In yesterday's ceremony, a casket containing memorabilia about the Great Storm was buried in Vine Gardens under a memorial stone.

Throughout Britain, insurance companies said about 150,000 claims for damage were still to be settled.

That represented about 10 per cent of the claims which flooded in after the storm last October 16 in which 19 people were killed, 15 million trees were uprooted.

Storm ahead over fresh Barlow Clowes inquiry

By Sheila Gunn and Rosemary Unsworth

Lord Young of Graffham, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is set to provoke a political storm this week by announcing that the Government has ruled out paying immediate compensation to the 18,000 victims of the Barlow Clowes crash.

Instead he is expected to tell Parliament on Thursday that Sir Anthony Barrowclough, the Ombudsman, will be asked to investigate the Department of Trade and Industry's handling of the affair.

It will be left to Sir Anthony to decide if the DTI is guilty of maladministration and recommend whether the Government should pay compensation.

A second inquiry will delay any payment and, from the Government's standpoint, will increase pressure on ministers from investors.

A senior Government source told *The Times* yesterday that neither Lord Young nor Mrs Margaret Thatcher, who has studied the report of the inquiry held by Sir Godfrey Le Quesne, are convinced it will totally satisfy

critics of the DTI's role and a further independent examination is needed.

He said Lord Young felt the report might be seen as "leaving the way open to allegations of whitewash" and would merely stoke up the controversy over how to help thousands of small investors who lost their savings in the £190 million crash.

Contrary to earlier speculation, Government sources were insistent yesterday that Lord Young and the Prime Minister were "at one" on the issue - both deeply distressed at the plight of investors, but loathe to set a precedent by paying compensation.

The 150-page Le Quesne report is believed to be critical of the decision of the DTI last November to re-litigate Barlow Clowes when a unit within the department was already investigating the affairs of the investment firm.

However, Westminster sources confirmed yesterday that the report, due to be made public by Lord Young on Thursday, does not criticize named officials and stops short of finding the DTI

negligent. It is also unlikely to hold the DTI responsible for the activities of Barlow Clowes International, controlling funds in Gibraltar and Switzerland.

Up to £80 million of Barlow Clowes International's funds may prove to be unrecoverable. About £52 million was invested through the UK gilt investment "arm," Barlow Clowes Gilt Managers, which was licensed by the DTI. Those funds are held by liquidators, who hope to distribute some of them to investors soon.

Mr Robert McCrindle, a senior back-bench Conservative MP and company director, said yesterday that if Sir Anthony found the DTI at fault, the Government should pay compensation without question.

"Thousands of small investors are going to be subjected to months of further delay," he said. "In these circumstances, Lord Young must make it clear that if the Ombudsman recommends compensation, the Government will accept that recommendation and pay up."

Reform of shopping law

Sunday trading row revived

By David Sapsed

The battle between those seeking to liberalize Britain's Sunday trading laws and those who seek to preserve the traditional Sunday is intensifying as the Government seeks opinions before the end of the year on possible reforms.

Legislation will be considered next year, but Ministers have made plain that they will not risk a further Parliamentary humiliation like the one they suffered in 1986.

Only if proposed reforms win a wide measure of agreement will they bring them forward in the Commons.

Mr Timothy Renton, the Minister of State at the Home Office, has privately set December 31 as the deadline for submissions for and against change.

The Shopping Hours Reform Council, backed by retail interests anxious to liberalize

the current 40-year-old laws, is employing a firm of parliamentary consultants to win support in Westminster while the Keep Sunday Special Campaign is organizing a nationwide petition and stepping up its publicity campaign.

Mr Renton made his own position clear at Brighton when he told a fringe meeting that he considered it absurd that a person could buy a pornography magazine on a Sunday but not a Bible.

The conference itself supported by a large margin a motion calling on the government to bring "sense and consistency" to Sunday trading.

Mr Renton told the delegates that he personally supported the idea of complete deregulation to allow half-day opening on Sundays. It represented a compromise proposal likely to win support

among reformers. Home Office sources indicated yesterday that the Government still intended to move cautiously, even if legislation could be framed early in the new year.

The main problem for the government is in the Commons where, in 1986, more than 70 Conservative MPs voted with the Opposition to defeat the Shops Bill on its second reading by 10 votes.

Powerful church and union forces are against reform and more than 50 of the MPs who voted against reform last time are still in the Commons.

Young Conservatives produced a survey at Brighton showing that more than 70 per cent of young people in England and Wales favour reform and earlier studies have shown that up to 125,000 full and part-time jobs could be created by the change.

BA snubs Europe with Boeing order

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

British Airways is to order more than 35 new jets from Boeing, the American aircraft company, in a \$1bn deal that will infuriate Europe.

Airbus Industrie, the consortium in which British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake, had been trying to persuade BA to choose the A320 twin jet to replace its ageing fleet of BAC 1-11s.

BA has, however, come down firmly in favour of Boeing in spite of massive cuts in the price of the Airbus, several last-minute proposals on a financial package and an intensive political lobby.

The airline was convinced that by buying four different types of Boeing aircraft it would be able to "mix and match" its fleet to changing demands. The Airbus offer would have left it with just one size of aircraft for use on all routes. It will take delivery of

three versions of the Boeing 737 - the 300, 400 and 500 series - providing between 110 and 160 seats.

The 737s, totalling some 25 aircraft worth more than \$750m, will be powered by the American General Electric CFM56 engines assembled in France. Rolls Royce does not produce an engine for the 737.

BA will also order about 10 250-seat 767 jets for longer distances. These will be powered by Rolls Royce engines.

Rolls Royce has a share in the V2500 jet engine being built in America by a consortium of international engine manufacturers and which would have been used to power the A320s had BA decided to take them.

The engine has won little support from airlines around the world, but a big order from BA could have given it a much needed boost.

ANC-backed rugby pact may split Afrikaners

From Michael Hartnack in Harare and Nicholas Beeston in London



Mr Craven: Has received death threats from whites

Leaders of the banned African National Congress concluded an historic agreement with the heads of South Africa's white-dominated rugby board yesterday that could lead the way to lifting the international boycott on sporting links with South Africa.

To the great embarrassment of the Government in Pretoria, and its opponents worldwide who want to keep South Africa isolated from international competition, the ANC yesterday agreed to "use its good offices" to get South African rugby players back into international competition once a new non-racial controlling body has been formed.

The wider implications of the weekend's meeting in Harare between the

ANC, the South African Rugby Board, and the predominantly black South African Rugby Union, were detailed in a joint statement released yesterday which called for rugby in South Africa to be organized on non-racial principles.

The sport is one of the pillars of Afrikaner society and is considered a second religion by the male population.

David Hands 44

The game celebrates its centenary in South Africa next year and Mr Louis Luyt, chairman of the Transvaal Rugby Union, is understood to have paved the way for the historic Harare conference at a meeting last month in Frankfurt, West Germany, with top ANC representatives. A millionaire Afrikaner

financier, Mr Luyt, said: "Sport must lead the way to peace."

One of the high priests of white rugby, the board's president, Dr Danie Craven, aged 78, will put the idea of the ANC pact to a full meeting of the white rugby board on November 11. He has already received death threats from right-wing extremists who may form a splinter organization rather than join what the joint statement described as rugby based on "non-racial principles."

"The meeting confirmed this position and agreed that South African rugby should come under one non-racial controlling body. They agreed to work together to achieve these goals and called on all people of good will inside and outside South Africa to support this

Continued on page 24, col 7

INSIDE

Goodbye to all this

● The Israeli Ambassador to the Court of St James, Yehuda Avner, takes his leave, after presiding over perhaps the most stormy period in Anglo-Israeli relations since 1947. He talks to *The Times* about his hopes and fears for the future

WIN £266,000

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

● The weekly prize of £8,000 was claimed on Saturday (see page 3); today's Portfolio Accumulator rises to £266,000
Prices: page 34

ConsGold steps up bid battle

Consolidated Gold Fields, which is fighting Minoro's record £2.9 billion bid, is poised to announce two potential gold mines in the United States as further evidence that its shareholders should reject the offer.

ConsGold argues that a takeover would seriously damage its businesses and job prospects because Minoro is South African-controlled.
New US mines, page 25

Christie move

Lindford Christie, Britain's top sprinter who was involved in a drugs controversy at the Seoul Olympics, has begun legal proceedings to clear his name
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NEWS ROUNDUP

Surgeon urges ban on firework sales

The sale of exploding fireworks and rockets should be banned by the Government, Dr Stephen Vernon, an eye surgeon has urged in the *Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine*. The call coincides with the publication of government figures which show that almost 1,000 people, mostly children, were injured by fireworks and needed hospital treatment in the weeks leading to Guy Fawkes' Night last year.

Last night surgeons were battling to save the sight of Diane Berridge, aged 12, of Alexander Road, Smethwick, West Midlands, who was hit in the face by a rocket as she walked across a Birmingham park.

In Doncaster, South Yorkshire, fire officers issued a warning against "hand blasters" sold by unlicensed street salesmen. The fireworks, shaped like a ball and imported from Taiwan, explode when thrown on the ground.

Warning on parole

The abolition of parole, which gives prisoners the hope of an early release for good behaviour, would cause a dramatic explosion in Britain's prisons, the Probation Service said yesterday. It said the idea was yet another example of the Government sweeping the problems in prisons under the carpet instead of finding a solution. The suggestion is one option being examined by the parole review committee, under Lord Carlisle of Bucklow. It is due to report to Mr Douglas Hurd, Home Secretary, later this year.

Midwives' ballot fear

Leaders of the Royal College of Midwives were concerned yesterday that its no-strike policy could be overturned because of a low response to a ballot on the issue. By last Friday just 50 per cent of the college's 32,000 members had returned ballot papers. The result will be announced today. Under the college's regulations, only a simple majority is needed to overturn policy. The midwives' leaders believe that more militant members of the college could swing the vote in a small turnout.

Seal virus identified

The epidemic which has killed thousands of seals in northern Europe has been identified as seal plague, a virus closely related to rinderpest, a severe cattle plague. The virus was identified by the Animal Health Research Laboratory at Pirbright, Surrey, and is distinct from, but related to, canine distemper the virus at first believed to have caused the deaths. Dr Gordon Scott, a virologist at Edinburgh University's Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine, named the virus at a conference in Edinburgh at the weekend to look at work on the seal epidemic.

Labour GCHQ pledge

A future Labour government would restore trade union rights and reinstate dismissed employees at GCHQ, the Government Communications Headquarters at Cheltenham, Mr Michael Meacher, Labour's employment spokesman, made the pledge 24 hours after the Government's deadline expired for an end to all trade union membership at the base. Some of the 11 who will not renounce trade union membership will receive pay-offs amounting to more than £34,000 but the average will be about £20,000.

Heysel trial opens

The trial opens today of 26 British football supporters who are accused of manslaughter during a riot at the Heysel stadium in Brussels, Belgium, in which 39 people died. Fans invaded the pitch before the European Cup final in May 1985 between Liverpool and the Italian club, Juventus. A wall collapsed on to the spectators and 34 Italians, four Belgians and one Briton died. Three Belgians face charges of unlawful killing through negligence by failing to provide adequate security at the Heysel ground.

Ulster candidates may face restrictions

By Robin Oakley and Jamie Dettmer

Mr Tom King, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, hinted yesterday that the Government may be preparing to force those who stand for office in the province to sign a declaration of opposition to the use of violence.

Such a stratagem has long been advocated as a way of separating those who are prepared to rely solely on the ballot box from those who believe in a combination of the ballot box and the gun.

Ministers have in the past been deterred by the legal difficulties of enforcement, but yesterday Mr King raised expectations by talking of "the almost intolerable position in which many representatives of constitutional parties find themselves in, being

faced in council chambers with people who openly advocate and support murdering and terrorism".

Mr King continued: "There have even been situations where council employees have been murdered and when councillors will express no regret about it."

"That is a very unacceptable situation not faced anywhere else in the United Kingdom. I am concerned to see how we might address it."

Mr King was asked by Mr Jonathan Dimbleby on BBC Television's *On the Record* if the logic of that reply was that a declaration against violence might be enforced, and he replied: "We'll have to see how logical I am."

Northern Ireland ministers have investigated the possibility of introducing legislation to ban candidates who support terrorist violence

from standing in council elections. It is understood that the Government's law officers objected to the proposal requiring candidates to sign an oath condemning violence because of technical difficulties in drafting the legislation.

There was also disagreement within the Government about whether a candidate should sign the oath on nomination or after election.

Some ministers feared that an oath on nomination would smack of government control of council candidates.

But oaths only on election could result in a series of re-run elections with maximum propaganda opportunities for those who were banned from taking office. It would also raise the question whether they could be re-nominated. Republican sources in-

dictated last week that Sinn Féin is already preparing to deal with an oath and its likely response would be to order its councillors to take the oath but break it at the first opportunity. The resulting legal action would provide it with wide media coverage, it believes.

Some ministers fear that if a jury had to adjudicate on the matter it would be open to intimidation.

Mr King was also asked yesterday whether the Government might adopt the practice used in the Irish Republic of convicting suspects of being members of the IRA on the evidence of one police officer, and banning media interviews with members of Provisional Sinn Féin.

He said ideas had not been ruled out, or in, during the current review of security measures.

Greens celebrate Thatcher speech

By Ronald Faux

The Greens ended their annual conference in Southport yesterday rejoicing that their cause — after Mrs Margaret Thatcher's commitment to environmental issues last week — was now high on the national political agenda.

Concern about the environment, members said, had been forced on the Government in the wake of Chernobyl by scientific evidence and the threats from acid rain and chemical pollution of the sea.

However, Lindsay Cooke, of Hounslow Green Party, warned delegates against allowing Green politics to be portrayed as "simple environmentalism".

That, she said, would devalue the whole concept. Degrading the environment could not be solved unless the root cause was tackled — unrestricted economic growth that pillaged finite resources.

The conference agreed to ask the Prime Minister to accept that the North Sea was a "live ecosystem and not merely a convenient short-term fish mine and rubbish dump".

It also insisted that industrial companies should have to give persuasive evidence that their activities were beneficial before being allowed to discharge effluent into the sea. Lord Calhoun is to mastermind Mrs Thatcher's campaign to control pollution and prepare a "green" Bill to be introduced next year.

On the Prime Minister's instructions he will chair a special committee bringing together government departments with responsibilities for the environment.

Lord Calhoun was promoted within the Department of Environment in the summer reshuffle to become Minister of Housing and is also in charge of countryside issues.

He has gained a reputation as an anti-pollution campaigner within the department, often, sources say, against the wishes of Mr Nicholas Ridley, Secretary of State for the Environment.

The committee's brief is to examine the consequences of pollution and hold talks with scientists and environmental groups before drawing up anti-pollution legislation.

The main areas of concern include the pollution of rivers and the North Sea.

Feud killings feared after pub shooting

By Jamie Dettmer, Irish Affairs Correspondent

Northern Ireland police are bracing themselves for a spate of feud shootings within "loyalist" paramilitary groups after the killing of Jim Craig, a senior figure in the Ulster Defence Association.

They believe that Craig, shot in a public house in east Belfast on Saturday night, was killed by a group of young UDA members who have links with the Ulster Volunteer Force, a rival loyalist paramilitary organization.

A resurgence of loyalist internal feud killings has been expected for months.

The organization has been spinning out of control since Mr Andy Tyrrie, the UDA's leader of 15 years' standing, was forced out last March by Belfast brigade commanders.

Saturday's shooting in the crowded Castle Inn left two dead and four injured. The gunmen were dressed in boiler suits. Mr Victor Rainey, aged 68, a pensioner who had no links with paramilitary organizations, was also killed.

Last night, loyalist sources said that Craig, aged 47, had been living "on borrowed time" for months. He had many enemies within the UDA and was a key figure in loyalist protection rackets. In 1985, he was acquitted of 33

extortion charges after witnesses giving evidence against him asked to wear hoods to protect their identity.

He was believed to have played a prominent part in drawing up the 1981 agreement between the loyalist paramilitaries and the IRA over racketeering in Belfast.

Tension within the UDA has been growing for months. The six-man inner council of Belfast brigade commanders led by Mr Tommy Lytle has tried to re-assert control.

A younger and wilder element, based mainly on the sprawling estates in north Belfast and east Antrim, has become increasingly unhappy about corruption in the UDA and frustrated at the leadership's cautious military approach against the republican paramilitaries.

● The RUC has launched a murder hunt after the discovery of the headless corpse of a businessman missing for more than two weeks.

The badly decomposed body of Colin Hunter, aged 28, a Bangor publican, was dug out from a rubbish dump after a tip-off.

He is believed to have been asked to pay protection money to the UDA for a bar he part-owned.

Cancer girl's tale of hope



Joanne Gillespie, aged 10, who has written a book about cancer for fellow child sufferers.

A young cancer victim recorded her determination to overcome the disease in a book that she wrote at the height of her illness.

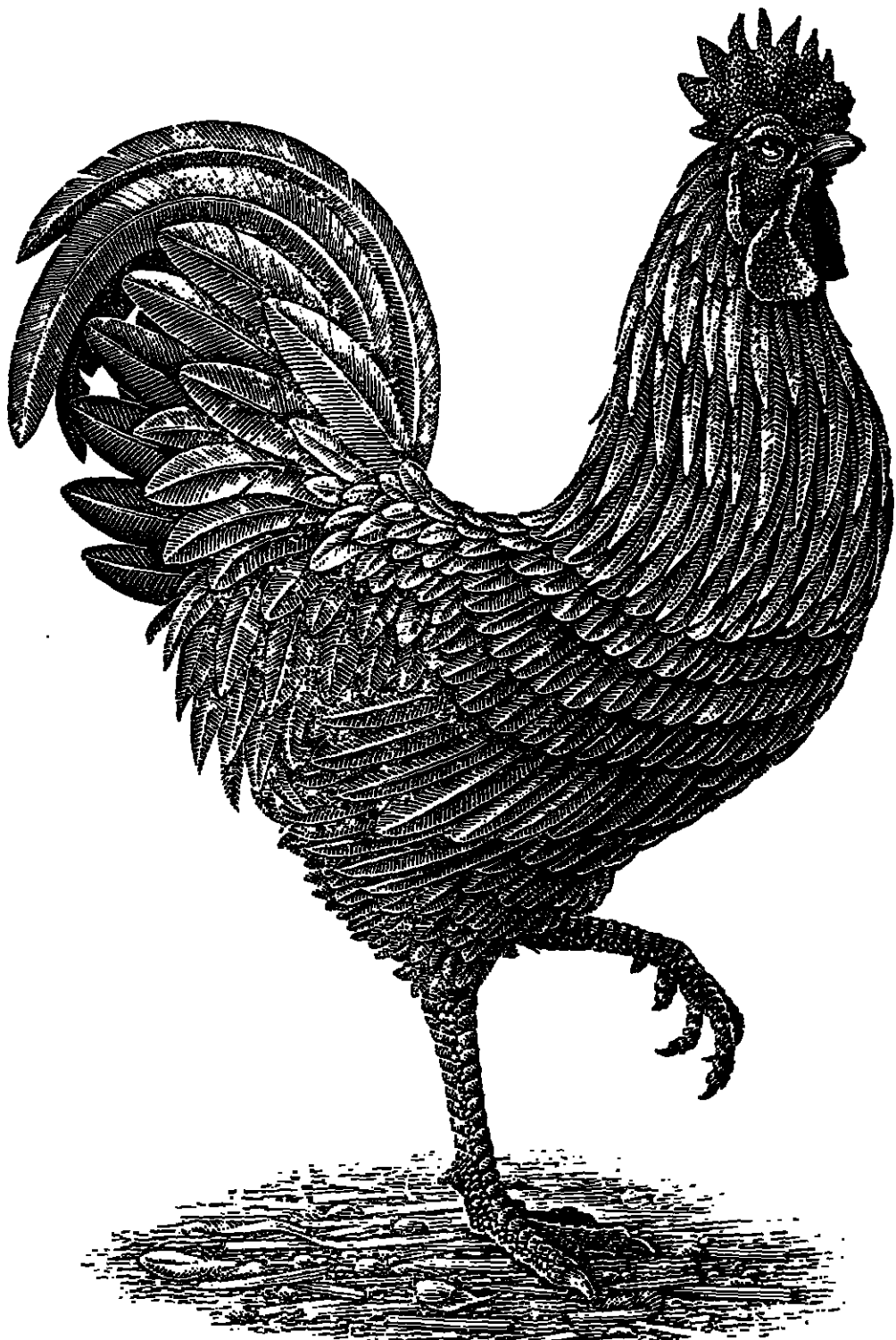
Joanne Gillespie, aged 10, began to write *Brave Heart* when she was so ill that she was not expected to live. She wanted the book to help other children with the disease.

Joanne, who lives in Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, will appear on BBC television's *Woman Tonight* to talk about the book. Mr Peter Gillespie, her father, said he and his wife, Mrs Kathy Gillespie, were warned that their daughter may not live when she had to undergo two operations within a year for

tumours of the brain.

Now, after intensive radiotherapy, she shows no sign of the disease. Mrs Gillespie, aged 35, said: "She must remain clear for five years before doctors can say she is cured."

Joanne recorded her story on tape because her right side was paralysed after the second operation. Excerpts have appeared in *Cancer Society* publications and a copy is with a publishing company. "In hospital I found there were lots of books for grown-ups to read about cancer but nothing for children so I decided I would write something children could understand," Joanne said.



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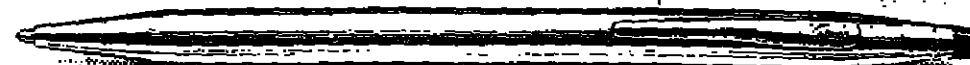
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Store manager is tortured with knife by armed raiders

By Ian Smith

Police were last night hunting a supermarket robbery gang which tortured the manager and then held a gun to his head and threatened to slice off his ears.

Only after cutting his left index finger down to the tendon with a knife did the gang accept the distraught pleas of Mr Gary Hughes, aged 28, that he did not possess keys to the safe. Instead they stole £50 from his pockets before escaping.

Mr Hughes was recovering at his home in Halifax last night after undergoing micro-surgery at the town's Royal Infirmary.

The Tesco supermarket chain has offered a £5,000 reward for information leading to conviction of the gang for assault. Det Chief Insp Bill Noble, of Greater Manchester police, called the attack extremely vicious.

Three men wearing stocking masks and a fourth in a blacked-out balaclava pounced on Mr Terence Culshaw, an assistant manager, as he left the Tesco store in Cannon Street, Bolton, Lancashire, shortly after midnight on Friday.

Dragging him back into the store the gang beat him about the head and body before searching out Mr Hughes in the manager's office. There for 20 minutes he was subjected to physical and mental torture.

Inadvertently the gang triggered a silent alarm during the raid. When a security guard investigated he found the two victims crissed with their ties and telephone cord.

Mr Noble said: "Both men are still in severe shock. The descriptions we have of their assailants are, understandably because of the appalling circumstances, not wholly detailed. However, we are determined to track down these very vicious men".

● Detectives hunting gunmen who shot a security guard while robbing a bank released a photograph yesterday of the gangsters aiming a revolver at the cashiers.

It was captured by a hidden video camera and shows the two men seconds before one of them opened fire.

The Security Express guard was left lying in a pool of blood after he tried to tackle

the bandits as they made their escape with £25,000. Staff at the Midland Bank, Rustington, West Sussex, saw the shooting.

One of the gunmen held them up at pistol point while his accomplice blasted the guard with a sawn-off shotgun.

The bandits sped off in a stolen car which they abandoned less than a mile from the scene and escaped in a second getaway car.

They then ditched that in front of The Lamb public house five miles further on at Armingworth.

Security Express has offered a £5,000 reward for information leading to their conviction.

Det Sergeant Colin Turrell, leading the hunt, said: "These men are dangerous and must be tracked down before they strike again."

"The security guard made a brave attempt to foil the robbery and got shot for his efforts."

"Anyone who recognizes either of these men can contact me at Bognor police station in complete confidence."

Food technology

Freshness test for groceries

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

A food freshness indicator, which changes colour when an item on a supermarket shelf is stale, would be a better guide for shoppers than the "sell by" or "best before" dates on packages.

The equivalent of a litmus test for consumers, showing the quality of food, is one of the applications of advances in biotechnology and genetic engineering research that should revolutionize the food and agriculture industry, according to a study commissioned by the Department of Trade and Industry.

The findings, contained in a report called *Biotechnology for Businessmen*, suggests how to exploit the latest results of research on which the British Government is spending £20

million a year. A study by Mr David Thelwall, of PMS, an industrial consultancy group, concludes that many of the new discoveries are ripe for commercial development by small companies.

Food freshness indicators have become possible by advances in understanding how food spoils and occurs and with the development of biosensors, which are postage-stamp-size devices that can combine fibre optic technology with thin membranes that are biologically sensitive.

Similarly, the report refers to research on a salmonella dipstick that could replace elaborate laboratory methods for detecting the organism.

In crop research the largest effort is directed towards

speeding up the process of breeding of seeds and plants. Work in progress for gene mapping, or producing the complete genetic blueprint, for individual varieties of plants, should allow breeders to predict the economic value of a cross far earlier in its development.

Improving the quality of crops by genetic manipulation is being tested to increase the content of useful components such as proteins and flavour, and of reducing off-flavours and toxins.

The report suggests that "there is a real opportunity to change the oil profile of oilseed rape and to change the protein level in potatoes, which would fit in with moves towards healthy eating".

British tourists flock to US

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

British holiday-makers are increasingly turning to the United States for their vacations, according to Britain's biggest package holidays company.

Florida has leaped from thirty-fifth position on Thomson Holidays' sales graph to the sixth most popular destination. And about 30,000 holidays to Florida have been booked for next year, six times as many as this time last year.

But Spain, which accounts for about half the package holidays market, is still attracting more visitors, with Thomson sales for Ibiza up 78 per cent.

The tour operator says these figures are part of a surge in bookings, which it hopes will bring it a period of growth

after tactical problems last year.

Thomson is fighting to regain its hold on the market, particularly against the second largest tour operator, International Leisure Group (ILG), which includes Intasun. This time last year ILG was rapidly eating into Thomson's market share. Thomson was serving about 30 per cent of the market with ILG catering for 20 per cent.

Although Thomson began to pull back against the competition later in the season, it estimates that it sold only 2.4 million holidays during the summer of 1988, 5 per cent less than the previous year. However, it looks as though overall sales may be down 1 or 2 per cent.

This year Thomson launched its brochures a month earlier and after five weeks the company has sold about 600,000 holidays, a 37 per cent increase on the same period last year.

Mr Charles Newbold, managing director of Thomson Holidays, said: "In sales volumes we are a couple of months ahead of last year and sales are still very strong. We are well on the way to the three million in 1989."

Keen pricing by Thomson and ILG looks like maintaining early bookings in a market which is expected now to show less growth than earlier expected.

The question is how far higher mortgage rates will affect growth.

'More war crime suspects found'

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Reporter

More east Europeans suspected of taking part in the mass murder of Jews during the Second World War have been discovered in Britain by a Home Office war crimes investigation, according to a veteran Nazi hunter.

Efraim Zuroff, the director of the Simon Wiesenthal Centre in Jerusalem, whose study of war crimes was banned from publication last week by a Scottish court, says the suspects are in addition to

the 67 names passed to Sir Thomas Hetherington, the former Director of Public Prosecutions, earlier this year.

Mr Zuroff, aged 50, said the Home Office inquiry had established that 16 of the 67 people named by a Scottish television programme, in the wake of evidence from the Soviet Union, were still alive and living in Britain.

"I know for a fact of other persons subsequent to those two lists", Mr Zuroff said.

"The inquiry discovered other persons living in Britain accused of very serious crimes."

He said the inquiry had been told of fresh suspects by sources, including an all-party Commons group. However, he had undertaken not to name any of the suspects.

Yesterday a Home Office spokesman said the inquiry had received up to 250 allegations from various sources. Many were still unsubstantiated.

Queen's historic trip to Spain

By Alan Hamilton

The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh fly to Madrid today to begin a historic five-day state visit to Spain, the first by a reigning British monarch.

Coming hard on the heels of Mrs Margaret Thatcher's recent visit, the Queen's presence is regarded as part of a determined effort to improve Anglo-Spanish relations in spite of the thorn of Gibraltar. She will be greeted and hosted throughout by King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia, who paid a successful state visit to London two years ago.

The King, who is a personal friend of the British Royal Family and shares a common ancestor in Queen Victoria, was warmly received when he became the first foreign monarch to address both Houses of Parliament.

As is usual on state visits, the Queen will be accompanied by Sir Geoffrey Howe,

Foreign Secretary, who will have talks with his Madrid counterpart. But no new initiative is expected on Gibraltar.

During Mrs Thatcher's visit both sides made their views on Gibraltar plain, but there are still difficulties.

Britain was disappointed that the Spanish foreign ministry prevented a Spanish police officer from attending the Gibraltar inquest on three IRA members.

The Spanish would like more pressure from the British Government to persuade the Gibraltarians that Spanish airlines should have access to their airport.

To underline the importance of the Spanish place on this week's visit, Sr Felipe Gonzalez, the prime minister, has delayed his departure to a meeting of international bankers in Switzerland to meet the Queen.

British exports to Spain last

year increased by 14 per cent, and the country is now its eighth largest overseas market. British exports last year reached £2,254 million, compared with imports of £2,176 million.

During her three days in Madrid the Queen will make one important speech at a state banquet. Later she will visit Seville, site of an international exhibition in 1992 commemorating the 500th anniversary of Columbus's discovery of America.

Finally she will fly to Barcelona to see the stadium built for the 1992 Olympic Games, which were moved to Berlin because of the civil war, and which is being brought back to life for the 1992 Olympics.

She will then sail to Majorca in Britannia to spend a private weekend with King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia.

Tank makes a safe landing



Flirt II, a First World War tank, is eased on to the forecourt of the British Museum under the watchful eye of Julia Wilson, aged two, whose father is a curator. The tank forms part of the Treasures for the Nation exhibition opening on October 27 (Photograph: Chris Harris).

Times fair to give top careers advice

Students seeking the best advice for courses and future careers will be able to find the guidance they need if they visit *The Times* Higher Education Fair next year. And it will cost them nothing.

The only national exhibition of its kind will make no entry charge and is offering free space to every college and university that takes part in the fair, which is expected to attract at least 30,000 students in addition to their parents, teachers and lecturers.

For the first time, students will be able to see under one roof what is available to them at a time when they have to make the crucial decisions that will affect the rest of their lives. Career and education advice from the most senior advisers in the country will be available in seminar rooms in the National Hall at Olympia, west London, during the three days of the fair, from June 8 to 10.

Admissions officers from the 105 universities, polytechnics and colleges of higher education will be available to answer questions and distribute application forms and prospectuses.

Mr Charles Wilson, the editor of *The Times*, said last night: "The fair is a further indication that *The Times* considers that the future of the country depends to a large extent on its students and the decisions they take."

"In the past they have had to search out the advice they need. They will now be able to take guidance from the best brains in the country before deciding their next moves."

The Times Higher Education Fair, the National Hall, Olympia, London, June 8-10, 1989.

Quality reading vital

All students should read a quality newspaper, Lord St John of Fawley says. As Mr Norman St John Slevas he was Leader of the House of Commons and Minister for the Arts from 1979 to 1981.

Lord St John read *The Times* as an undergraduate at Cambridge where he was president of the Union and took advantage of the student discount scheme, forerunner of the newly introduced PRESSPASS scheme.

He said: "It is important students should have a clear idea of issues facing us. It is

THE TIMES PRESSPASS

very important for the opinion formers to take a wide interest. A good newspaper helps people to make up their minds."

Any student in full time education in Britain can apply for the PRESSPASS book of vouchers which give a 50 per cent saving on the cover price of *The Times*.

Coupon, page 32

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

Diligence paid off for Mrs Pat Lickman, a retired teacher, when her daily check of the Portfolio competition brought her £2,666.

Her husband, Brian, of Farnbridge Close, Charlton Kings, Cheltenham, said:

"Pat is delighted as she has never won anything before."

Mrs Lickman shared the £8,000 weekly prize with Mr A K Ray, of Hillview Road, Canterbury, Kent, and Mr J Hyda, of Oakwood Court, west London.

'Mummy, why can't I have special legs like David?'

Like any other twins, when four year old David Brownhill gets something special, his sister Kate wants the same.

A year ago David got a pair of calipers. His sister thought he was really lucky and in a way she was right.

Ten years ago he would have had a wheelchair to look forward to.

But now there's a chance he won't, because the research into Muscular Dystrophy is now gathering momentum.

In October 1986 scientists identified the gene responsible for Duchenne, the most common and most severe strain of Muscular Dystrophy.

Just over a year later, as the world celebrated Christmas Eve, researchers gave medical science something to cheer about.

They had identified the protein which is missing from boys affected by Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. It was named "dystrophin".

The next step is to discover its role in the genetic make up of our bodies. Then it's only a matter of time before a way of compensating for the absence of this protein is found.

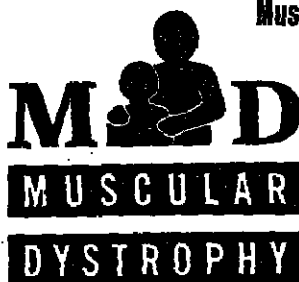
These recent scientific discoveries have meant we are now closer to a treatment than anyone ever dared hope. Helping to fund this worldwide research is the main purpose of the Muscular Dystrophy Group.

We're a nationwide voluntary organisation, who also care for children and adults affected by the dystrophies and give counselling to their families. When the cure is found, this heartbreaking disease will become a thing of the past and Kate won't be jealous of David's "special legs" any more, because boys like him will have normal ones.

Muscular Dystrophy Week is October 15-22. That's why we're advertising now. We can't afford to do it

all year round. That week, Muscular Dystrophy will be a national issue, with lots of opportunities for everyone to join in. If you want to help in any way at all, we'd be delighted to hear from you. Who knows? It could be your contribution which helps us to make the final breakthrough.

Muscular Dystrophy Group of Great Britain & N. Ireland, Room TM2, 35 Macaulay Road, London SW4 0QZ. Telephone: 01-720 8055. Registered Charity No. 205395.



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Seventy arrested as drunks clash with police in rural areas

By Howard Foster and Peter Evans

Seventy people were arrested at the weekend in violent clashes between drunks and police in rural areas. About a dozen officers were injured in the fighting which was blamed on the "lager culture" involving young people and excess alcohol.

Fifteen youths were questioned on Saturday after seven drunks, aged 17, died of respiratory failure during fighting between Shrewsbury and Walsall football supporters at Shrewsbury.

More than 40 people were arrested in York after attacks on police as youths spilled out of public houses. One officer was detained in hospital and several others received minor injuries.

Fourteen of the arrests took place in Aldershot, Hampshire, less than a fortnight after it was announced that the town was among six areas where drinking in the streets is to be banned.

All these offences were drink orientated, Inspector Jim Pratt of Aldershot Police said. "The problem of rural violence has got to be sorted out," he blamed the trouble on "lager louts".

There was further violence in Hampshire including a fight amongst 200 people at Lee-on-Solent, in which four officers were hurt.

The Home Office Research Planning Unit is expected to

give Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, the results of a survey on rural violence next month. One recommendation is expected to be an increase in compensation payments from the criminal to his victim.

More than 1,000 officers have been rendered unfit for duty this year because of assaults in English and Welsh rural counties.

A Probation Officers were yesterday fiercely critical of Government efforts to curb alcohol abuse and related violence. They said the decision to ban drinking in designated public places would turn the homeless and alcoholics into criminals and exacerbate prison overcrowding.

The National Association of Probation Officers ended its annual conference in Eastbourne in fierce conflict with the Government over its new criminal justice policies.

These include electronic tagging and tougher punishments in the community as well as the ban on drinking.

Mr Tony Goodman, of London Branch, forecast that more people would go to prison as a result of fine defaults over drinking in the streets.

Mr John Hague, also of London Branch, said there was often a direct link between homelessness and alcoholism. In London there were an estimated 30,000 homeless

people, 10-15,000 of whom were thought to be sleeping rough.

Industrial action by probation officers over the plan for tougher punishment in the community was "very much a possibility either at local or national level", Mr Bill Beaumont, the association's general secretary said. He was speaking after members voted to resist attempts to introduce punishment in the community.

The motion commits the association to campaigning against the introduction of a new order that "would lead to a fundamental and unacceptable change in role for probation officers".

Mr Beaumont said the new order would represent a purposeless transformation in the probation role from "advise, assist and befriend" to "restrict, control and punish".

A radical change in the sentencing of juvenile offenders is urged in a report of the Children's Society to be launched today.

Fewer than 150 juvenile offenders a year need to be removed from the community, compared with the 4,000 who were committed to prison service custody in 1987, the report says.

The behaviour of juvenile offenders needs to be tackled within their families and the community, it says.

Canine coiffeurs show off their style



Gill East, from Feltham, west London, clipping Katie, an apricot miniature poodle, at the 1988 Groomer of the Year competition in Leicester yesterday. Twenty-seven groomers from throughout Britain took part (Photograph: Peter Trievnor).

PC held over wife's death gets court date

By Frances Gibb
Legal Affairs
Correspondent

A British policeman held without charge for more than seven months in Portugal on suspicion of murdering his wife has been given a hearing date for next month.

Police Constable Alan Waldo, aged 34, who was based at Ashington, Northumberland, was placed in Faro prison on the Algarve after the death of his wife, Doris, on March 12 in a whirlpool bath. The couple were on holiday at their time-share home near Albufeira.

Mr David Twigg, PC Waldo's lawyer, who has been instructed by the Police Federation, has been in constant correspondence with the Foreign Office to try to secure a hearing date for his client.

He believes PC Waldo is being held "on the basis of a gross forensic error" and has told the Foreign Office that "if the evidence in the case is as unreliable as it appears, it seems likely that Waldo is the victim of a considerable injustice".

Two post-mortems on Mrs Waldo's body have apparently yielded different results.

The hearing, on November 11, will give PC Waldo the opportunity of seeking bail. Until there is a formal charge, Portuguese courts will not consider bail.

PC Waldo maintains he found his wife drowned in a Jacuzzi whirlpool bath.

Levy proposed to fund Bar pupils

By Our Legal Affairs Correspondent

Bar leaders will come under pressure this week at the profession's annual meeting to impose a levy on all practising barristers for the setting up of a central fund to pay salaries to pupil barristers.

Two barristers, Mr Jeremy McMullen, and Mr John McVilliams, QC, are putting forward a resolution stating that it is the Bar's responsibility to ensure all pupils receive payment.

The proposal for a central fund is controversial. Lord Mackay of Clashfern, Lord Chancellor, is in favour, arguing it is time the Bar did more to help and retain recruits. But some Bar leaders, including Mr Robert Johnson, QC, chairman of the Bar, are against it.

They say that significant progress has been made in the

past 18 months in encouraging chambers to contribute more money to help pupils voluntarily - the total has risen three-fold to £600,000 this year. The Bar also gives £1.5 million in grants and awards.

They also believe that a compulsory contributory scheme might be difficult to operate fairly and to enforce.

But Mr McMullen said: "We feel there ought to be a training levy spread across the Bar as there is in many other industries".

At present pupils' pay varies from chambers to chambers and depending on grants and awards.

The resolution, to be debated on Saturday, urges the general council of the Bar to investigate and report on ways a training levy might be imposed.

Fine French furniture fails to attract buyers

By Jenny Gilbert

Both Sotheby's and Christie's in their New York midweek sales discovered that the taste and pocket for fine French furniture - spanning the periods Louis XIV, XV and XVI - has met its limit.

At the Sotheby's sale, an unusually large and extravagantly-constructed chandelier attributed to the master André-Charles Boulle, which had been expected to fetch in excess of \$400,000 (£235,300), failed to sell.

Thierry Millerand, Sotheby's director of French furniture, admitted that the market for the more elaborate pieces of the Louis XIV period, was "a highly individual field appealing to a limited audience". The sale realized \$3,496,815 (£2,056,500).

Christie's New York reported a similar tale with prices for grandiose marble-topped commodes often falling short of estimate while the mainly Swiss and American collectors fell upon pieces of more classical lines.

Top lot was a pair of Empire bronze and ormolu candelabra shaped as Grecian maidens which sold to a Swiss collector for \$121,000 (£71,170) against an estimate of \$50,000-\$70,000.

Later the same day Christie's sale of the Groves collection of fine furniture did well with 90 per cent sold.

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Businesses urged to forge more links with schools

By David Tyder, Education Editor

Industry is failing to meet the demands of schools which are anxious to form links with their local businesses. Businessmen are warned today that unless the situation improves they will fall behind foreign competition.

The best brains in Britain could well be poached by European big business with many schools already forming links with companies such as the West German car makers, BMW, as they are finding it difficult to interest British companies.

Sir Adrian Cadbury, who

headed a Confederation of British Industry task force on education whose report is published today, said: "We are taking this very seriously, but at the moment it is the schools who are making the running. That we hope to put right. British firms must get involved with our schools in their own best self-interest."

Sir Adrian, chairman of Cadbury-Schweppes, says that 15,000 more firms must build links with schools if the Government's work experience schemes for 650,000 pupils and 45,000 teachers

every year are to work. He is asking every member of the confederation to set up at least one extra local link.

"Only then can we achieve our goal of having every secondary school linked to business."

Mr John Banham, the confederation's director-general, pointing out that between 1986 and 1994 the number of school leavers will have fallen from 1.7 million to 1.25 million, said: "Businesses which do not take action risk missing out in the recruitment stakes."

"This time bomb ticking

away under the British economy will have far-reaching consequences for many markets and all employers."

"Effective links between the world of work and the world of education are essential if the consequences of skill shortages are to be avoided."

The report will be discussed at the federation's annual conference next month.

Report of the CBI Business-Education Task Force (CBI, 103 New Oxford Street, London, WC1A 1DU; £25 to CBI members, £50 non-members, £5 for schools).

Teaching bonuses could be divisive

By Our Education Editor

Bonuses paid to attract teachers of subjects such as mathematics and science, where there is a shortage of properly qualified staff, could cause jealousy and tensions, Britain's second largest teachers' union says today.

A report to the Interim Advisory Committee on Pay from the National Association of Schoolmasters and the Union of Women Teachers says: "Subject related incentive payments will cause division and demoralization

TEACHERS' PAY: A COMPARATIVE STUDY

	1974	1976	1982	1986	1989
Non-manual av.	2,258	4,317	7,568	10,821	13,639
New recruit (£)	2,307	3,686	6,098	7,824	9,311
% of non-manual av.	(102.1)	(84.9)	(79.5)	(73.7)	(68.0)
Max unpromoted (£)	3,474	5,184	8,700	10,986	14,570
% of non-manual av.	(153.6)	(120.1)	(113.4)	(103.4)	(106.4)
Max below deputy head	4,997	7,083	12,141	15,330	19,195
% of non-manual av.	(220.3)	(164.1)	(158.3)	(144.3)	(140.1)

in school staff rooms. It is hostile to staff room co-operation and goodwill that staff with similar abilities and levels of qualification be sharply differentiated in pay

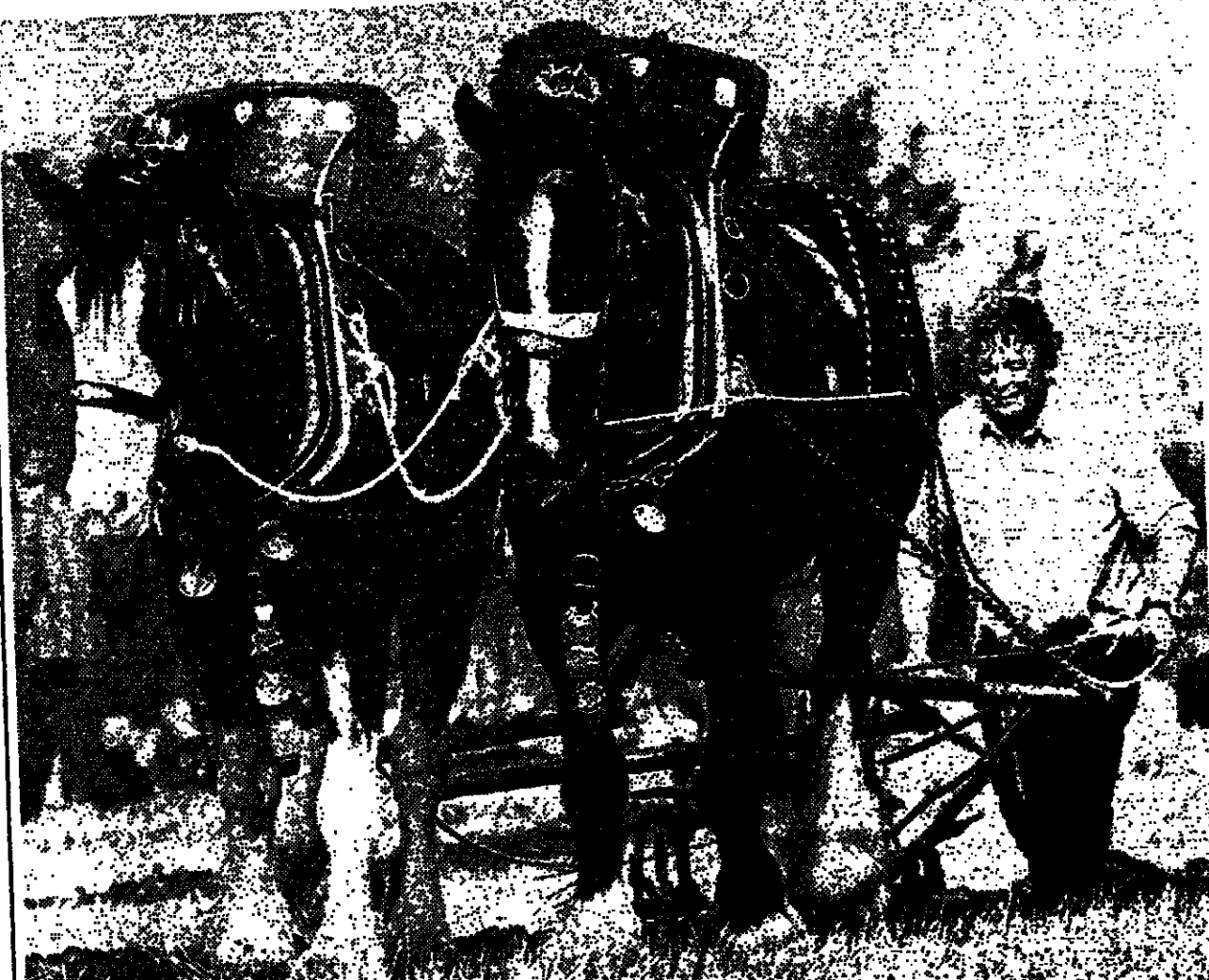
terms simply because of the subjects they teach.

It could also lead to teachers with several years' experience working alongside new recruits who are on a higher

salary." The NAS/UWT is also critical of schemes to pay bonuses in parts of the country where there is a general teacher shortage. It says that such payments would simply move the shortages from one part of the country to another.

The union argues that unless Mr Kenneth Baker, Secretary of State for Education and Science, improves next year's proposed 5.1 per cent pay increase to 9 per cent, insufficient recruits will enter teaching and the number of staff leaving will continue to rise.

Pulling the ploughshare back in time



Mr Gerry Winters, from Crowhurst, East Sussex, steering Boy George and Charlie, two heavy horses, in the long turn furrow section of Europe's biggest ploughing competition, the Great All England Horse Ploughing Championships at Rogate, Hampshire, yesterday (Photograph: Julian Herbert).

WHITEHALL BRIEF by David Walker

Great hunt starts for active citizen

Civil Servants in at least three departments last week listened world-weary to Mr Douglas Hurd at the Conservative Party conference expound his new idea of the active citizen.

The theme of their lives for some time now has been finding enough of this social animal to stock the range of new organizations the Government has been busy creating.

It is a long list. The Department of the Environment is beating the bushes for courageous types willing to serve as members of housing action trusts; no pay and potentially a lot of aggravation from local authority tenants who can see no good reason why their landlords should be changed.

The Department of Education and Science not only has to concern itself with the "representativeness" of the governors who the law allows to determine the shape of schools but with finding activists to serve as trustees of city technology colleges.

The Department of Employment has been converted to a belief in "city fishers" who will emerge from the woodwork to run new employment training advisory committees.

The Department of Trade and Industry, while it may have rejected the radical option of turning over the British Overseas Trade Board to local businessmen committees, is still searching for business volunteers to a host of advisory, and some executive, committees.

Qualifications for such positions are, first and foremost, some demonstrable business connection: the Civil Servants who process the names need this to convince ministers.

Second is a lack of public blamish. The reason Civil Servants will not appoint a rack-renting landlord with a string of evictions to his credit to a housing action trust is less his potential effect on its tenants than the fuss,

parliamentary questions and general bother it might cause if it leaked out.

Third — this is where Mr Hurd comes in — is a willingness to spend a considerable amount of time at committee meetings for no very large rewards.

The Education Reform Act does provide, for example, for some remuneration for those who join the new governing bodies of the polytechnics and colleges; service as member of an urban development corporation is rewarded, too.

But the new generation of corporate bodies being set up (Whitehall does not like the word *company*) will appeal only to appointees with alternative sources of income.

The practical questions for Whitehall are whether the bodies can be found, and whether people of sufficient calibre are among them to provide the chairmen of governors and trustees.

Beyond that there is the issue of how autonomous they are to be. It is difficult to conceive, say, the London Docklands Development Corporation flying off on a tangent: the lines of DoE control run through finance officer and chief executive as well as DoE appointees on the corporation itself.

But will the Department of Employment be able to exercise control over its businessman committee in the provinces which wants to restructure training, and can the Department of Education and Science "run" a host of opted-out school governors?

Here is a paradox. Elected local government has been cramped and constrained in recent years because its spending was not sufficiently controlled and because it had a nasty habit of doing things that ministers found embarrassing.

The active citizen is all very well (provided he can be found) but the logic of political and administrative control which Mrs Thatcher has done nothing to weaken says he must not be too active.

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Doctors will 'shop around' for care in hospital project

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

The Government is setting up a pilot study in Wales to allow family doctors to shop around for the best and most cost-effective hospital services for their patients.

The scheme, now favoured in the Prime Minister's review of the National Health Service, has been initiated by the Welsh Office. It is likely to involve three group practices. Doctors will be given budgets to plan and buy hospital and community services for their patients, based on per capita allocations weighted for sex, age and morbidity.

One objective of the pilot study is to assess whether many expensive hospital-based services can be provided in the doctor's surgery or in other community clinics.

Dr Danny Bevan, district general manager of Powys Health Authority and chairman of the project group, emphasized that GPs, consultants and managers were still being consulted over the scheme and that a six-month feasibility study would have to take place first. The project would then operate in two stages: detailed information on present referral patterns and costs of services would be collated, and GPs would then be asked to plan and buy services using that information.

The project group, a sub-committee of the Resource Allocation Working Group, is looking at ways of drawing up rough tariffs for treatment, which would help doctors shop around for the best value. A parallel pilot project, to establish more accurate costs based on diagnostic-related groups, is being carried out by West Glamorgan Health Authority.

"We would target budgets to group practices and family doctors would then determine how that money was spent", Dr Bevan said. He emphasized that the new pilot scheme was not a cost-cutting exercise and there would be no restrictions on GPs' rights of referral.

"Studies have shown that 15 per cent of hospital admissions are totally unnecessary", Dr Bevan said. If that percentage could be saved, it could be used for primary care instead, he said. Some of the unnecessary referrals were because of patients referring themselves or because patients were admitted to several departments for investigation.

Dr Bevan argued that the GP should, where necessary, be able to refer a patient to a consultant for advice and then decide where that patient should go.

"By 1995 with advanced technology many diagnostic techniques will be able to be carried out in a surgery or at home", Dr Bevan said. "We don't want to reduce the level of spending but we want GPs to provide more appropriate care."

Although the scheme is also likely to be tried in England, after the White Paper emerging from the review, it would be easier to adopt nationally in Wales because of resource allocation patterns. In Wales there is little difficulty transferring money from over-provided areas to regions of greater deprivation.

It is understood that some doctors in Wales oppose the scheme as a threat to their clinical freedom and an attempt to cut costs. GPs throughout the country are already concerned by moves to impose greater controls over their prescribing and referral habits.

Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, says that some GPs refer 20 times as many patients to hospital as others, and prescribe twice as many drugs.

Island group wins top religious award



Community members celebrating in front of the abbey yesterday (Photograph: John Paul).

The Iona Community, which has made an international centre of pilgrimage out of the Scottish island where St Columba landed in the sixth century, will receive a £3,000 cheque and certificate today from Sir John Templeton, founder of the Templeton Prize for Religion (Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Editor writes).

It will be accepted on the group's behalf by the Rev John Harvey, its leader. The award is in recognition of the community's missionary work in Scotland and its contribution to the international ecumenical movement.

The Iona Community, started in 1938, at first admitted only Presbyterian men, but now accepts men and women, lay and

ordained, from denominations ranging from the Society of Friends (Quakers) to the Roman Catholic Church. The group has rebuilt the ruined Benedictine abbey on Iona.

A similar prize is being awarded to the Rev Simon Stephens, founder of the Compassionate Friends and chaplain in HMS Ark Royal.

Majority of young find jobs in a month

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Most young workers in Britain find their first full-time job less than a month after finishing school or college, a survey has shown, and most believe there should be a national minimum wage.

More than two thirds of the 1,001 people aged 16 to 24 interviewed in the survey, commissioned by the Alliance and Leicester Building Society, wanted a minimum wage of at least £72.68 a week.

The strongest support for a statutory minimum came from Scotland (82 per cent) but young Scots also had the lowest expectations, suggesting an average figure of £62.54. London respondents cited the highest average figure - £94.63.

The survey, conducted by HR&H Consensus Research International, showed significant regional differences in the way people spend their first salaries. Young people in Wales and the South-west are the most frugal, being less likely than average to spend on transport, drinking, eating out and cigarettes.

In London and the South-east, young people have heavier commitments in terms of paying off debts and rent, but are also more likely to spend money on eating out.

Hand-built Aston tops motor show

By Daniel Ward, Motor Industry Correspondent

A resurgence in British sports cars will mark the opening of the British Motor Show in Birmingham tomorrow when both Aston Martin and Jaguar will unveil stunning new models.

Aston Martin, now owned by Ford, will show its new V8 coupe, styled by the rising British designer, Mr John Heffernan and Mr Ken Greenley.

When production of the £80,000-plus Aston begins next year only about five a week will be hand-built at the firm's factory in Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire.

Ultimate rarity is reserved for the Jaguar XK220 concept car as there is only one in existence. At the weekend, Jaguar executives were lending a hand to put the finishing touches to the car.

Designers and engineers at Jaguar's new £35 million technical centre in Coventry have

given up their spare time to develop the turbo-charged 3.6 litre sports car, which is likely to be capable of speeds of more than 200 mph.

The car is unlikely to go into volume production although Sir John Egan, Jaguar's chairman, has hinted it could be possible to build 200 of these.

The Reliant GTE coupe, whose claim to fame in the 1970s was that the Princess Royal used to drive one, is to return from obsolescence and is set to go back into production, thanks to funding from Japanese businessmen.

For family motorists and company car drivers the most important car at Birmingham will be the new Vauxhall Cavalier range.

Austin Rover launches the Montego turbo diesel, one of the most economical cars in Britain of any size and capable of more than 70 mpg.

Motorway repairs

Petrol prices vary by 28p in regional survey

Motorists in Tyne and Wear pay 164.5p a gallon for petrol, the cheapest anywhere in Britain and 28.7p less than the country's most expensive gallon of four-star, in Sunderland.

Prices range from 168.6p in the North to 170.0p in the Midlands and East Anglia, 172.7p in London and the South-east, according to a survey by Dialcard.

Motorists in Northern Ireland pay 176.3p, about half a penny more than Scottish drivers.

Motorway repairs until next Monday:

London and the South-east

M4 London: overnight lane closures jns 1-3 (Hounslow/Chiswick), October 17-18.

M25 Surrey: contraflow jns 11-13 (Chertsey/Staines). Two lanes on jn 12 (M3).

M1 Hertfordshire: slip closures jn 8 (Hemel Hempstead).

M20 Kent: restrictions jns 11-12; lane closed eastbound near jn with A200 lane closures jns 9-13.

M40 Buckinghamshire: lane closures jns 1-3 (A40/Thame).

Midlands

M1 Nottinghamshire: lane closures overnight jns 24-25.

M3 Northamptonshire: lane closed southbound, Newport Pagnell services.

M5 Hereford/Worcester:

contraflows jns 4-4a. Abnormal loads on Sundays, jns 1-11 until November 27.

M54 Shropshire: eastbound lane closure jn 4 (A462/A464).

North

M62 Greater Manchester: contraflow jns 21-22. M62 West Yorkshire: contraflow jns 24-25.

M63 Greater Manchester: Barton Bridge: contraflow jns 1-3; single lane jns 3-6 (Barton/A6144). Contraflow jns 12-13. No eastbound entry jn 12.

M6 Greater Manchester: overnight lane closure jns 20-21a.

M180 Humberside: lane closures jns 1-2 (A614/A161).

Wales and West

M4 Great: restrictions jns 24-25.

M4 West Glamorgan: restrictions jns 40-48.

M5 Somerset: closures jns 21-22 (Bristol and Clevedon).

Scotland

M74 Strathclyde: south-bound closure jn 5 (Edinburgh).

Contraflow jns 7-8. Contraflow south of jn 10. Lane closed jn 11 to south of jn 12.

M8 Strathclyde: two lanes jns 27-28. Contraflow jn 31 (A8), no eastbound access.

M9 Central Region: contraflow jns 9 (M80) and 10 (Craigforth).

M96 Central Region: north-bound carriageway jns 4-8 closed to wide loads. Single lane northbound jns 4-5 (A80/M876).

Information supplied by AA Roadwatch

Minister agrees to see Biggin Hill protesters

By Robin Young

Mr Roger Freeman, Under Secretary of State for the Armed Forces, has agreed to meet objections to the closure of RAF Biggin Hill, the Royal Air Force's most historic station, and to consider their plans for its future.

Mr David Haslam, who represents Biggin Hill on Bromley council, is leading the campaign against closure, which is aimed at saving £1 million a year from the defence budget of £19 billion. He has received nearly 100 letters and pledges of support from

individuals and service organizations in Britain and overseas.

He said yesterday: "Biggin Hill has been a living shrine of remembrance to those who gave their lives in the Battle of Britain and the rest of the war. Without the RAF here it will be just another monument."

It has been suggested Biggin Hill could become a museum, an officer selection centre for all three services or a home for RAF chaplains, at present accommodated at Airport House in Hampshire.



Rather more
Janneau-sait-quoi
- than
mere brandy.

J A N N E A U
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US fears 1992 may boost technology flow to Soviet bloc



M. Delors: Wants the US to deal with a collective EEC.

By Robert Fisk

The lowering of European Customs barriers in 1992 is causing serious concern to officials of the Co-ordinating Committee for Multi-lateral Export Controls (Cocom), who fear that it will hamper their attempts to prevent sensitive technology from reaching the Soviet Union.

Individual delegations in the organization, in which the United States is grouped with Japan and all the Nato members except Ireland, have been discussing whether border controls will have to be imposed for strategically important goods that may be destined for Eastern Europe when other tariff barriers disappear. The

Americans, who produce most of the computer software that the Soviet Union would like to obtain, are more worried than other members of Cocom.

This is not least because US restrictions on the sale of technology would probably be overturned under new EEC rules.

"We are worried that we are just going to lose control of stuff that we sell to Western European countries," a US Defence Department official said.

"At the moment, we can sell a computer, say, to France or Denmark and the French or Danish Governments undertake not to resell it. But, with 1992, controls between EEC nations are supposed

to go. So what is to stop the French or the Danes selling a computer to Greece or West Germany where it might be resold illegally to the Soviets?"

It is perfectly true that M. Jacques Delors, the President of the European Commission, wants the EEC itself to be a single destination for US technology and wishes to abandon the current system under which Washington deals directly with EEC governments.

In fact, European Cocom members, including Britain, believe there may be provision under the Treaty of Rome for national border controls on strategic goods — which is itself another blow to exporters

who believe that 1992 will break all the barriers.

The real problem, however, is that Cocom is not based on any kind of treaty or inter-governmental agreement. Its secretariat, unlike the United Nations, does not have international status and only its chairman, by tradition an Italian, has diplomatic immunity. The EEC Commission has no say in Cocom, nor has Cocom any legal influence over the EEC.

Exporters who infringe Cocom restrictions on the sale of technology to the Soviet Union are, in principle at least, subject to penalties only under the Customs laws of the countries from which they are trading. As 1992 draws closer,

the Americans are likely to find ever greater resistance by European nations to US restrictions on the sale of technology, especially to US legislation which claims control over the sale of European computers and other equipment if the machines contain parts made in America.

The British Government has expressed its anger at American claims which it believes impinge on UK sovereignty on several occasions.

For its part, the Soviet Union can only take satisfaction from the potential embarrassment that 1992 may cause the United States, especially when the most financially powerful member of the

EEC, West Germany, is voicing ever more criticism of the principles that underlie Cocom. The frontier between East and West Germany is now believed to be the most frequently used route for the smuggling of high-tech equipment from Nato nations to the Soviet bloc.

The second most sensitive frontier is between Austria and Hungary, and a US diplomat in the commerce section of the American Embassy in Budapest is employed full time in tracing fraudulent companies that operate on both sides of the border to smuggle computers to the Warsaw Pact countries.

Leading article, page 17

Yugoslav leaders urge calm on eve of party showdown

From Dassa Trevisan, Belgrade

Top Yugoslav leaders made impassioned appeals to reason in an attempt to soothe ethnic tension on the eve of today's crucial Central Committee meeting.

Relations between Yugoslavia's regional leaders were further strained at the weekend when Mr Simeon Buncic, the Yugoslav Communist Party president, sharply criticized the Serbian party leader, Mr Slobodan Milosevic, for tolerating Serbian attempts to turn him into "a new Tito".

But the rift has never been as wide, with the Serbian leader massing popular support and accusing his adversaries of placing the Serbian Communist Party in the dock in an effort to prevent essential changes.

The Central Committee meeting is expected to announce the biggest personnel shake-up in the party's top echelons, with 43 senior officials, many of whom represent the last of Tito's partisan generation, facing dismissal to make room for new people.

However, there are no indications that the ideological

battle over Yugoslavia's future and the on-going power struggle are to be resolved during the debate.

The Yugoslav Defence Minister, General Simeon Buncic, described the present crisis as the gravest in Yugoslavia's postwar history and issued a warning that unless it was resolved, Yugoslavia's existence might be jeopardized.

The Yugoslav Army denied rumours — particularly rife in Slovenia — that the Army might intervene. The general dismissed these fears as "non-sense", adding that the Army's place and role in Yugoslavia were clearly defined by the Constitution.

Precipitated by Mr Milosevic's pressure campaign which relies entirely on street demonstrations, the crisis has now been brought to a head. Over the weekend, militant Serbs continued to hold protest meetings in support of the Serbian leader and demanded that Mr Simeon, the party president, be called to account.

Ever since the recent angry exchanges in the Yugoslav

Communist Party Politburo, other regional party figures are joining forces against the Serbian leader's political methods.

The fiercest confrontation developed between the Slovene and Serbian leaders. In a speech on Saturday, the Slovene party leader, Mr Milan Kucan, said that while it was possible to bring out on to the streets masses of discontented people and create an illusion that problems can be resolved this way overnight, "such a seduction cannot work in the long-run". He insisted that it cannot provide a substitute for political programmes.

In Croatia, where the party's central committee met on Saturday, a speaker forecast that Mr Milosevic would become "the victim of his own policy" and urged the Central Committee plenum in Belgrade to put him in his place. But he also warned: "We must be careful not to become victims of his policy."

It appears that stopping Mr Milosevic from imposing his politics on the rest of Yugoslavia is what all the other

regional leaders expect from today's plenum.

This, despite serious setbacks the Serbian leader's tactics have suffered, is not likely to happen while millions of Serbs believe that he is the leader who can resolve the Kosovo issue and find a solution to the economic and social problems.

In Kosovo, where the Serbian leaders have virtually issued an ultimatum for the ousting of the predominantly Albanian leadership, their tactics have backfired. The regional leadership has now received a vote of confidence.

In Montenegro, the attempt by demonstrators to unseat the entire political establishment has also failed.

Politicians warned: The official Yugoslav news agency, Tanjug, attacked the political establishment for bringing the country to the "brink of despair" and warned them that today's talks were the last chance to solve the crisis.

The politicians, it said, were fighting each other while the nation was queuing for black bread.



A group of Yugoslav high school students marching to pay their respects at the tomb of Tito in the capital Belgrade yesterday. The group, which walked behind the national flag, was escorted by a police car and no incidents were reported.

Fresh curbs on meetings branded as unlawful

Leningrad, September 20: Representatives from 13 informal organizations attended a meeting to set up a committee to protest against the new decrees. It was decided to make a public appeal and a petition was drawn up to be sent to the 10th session of the Supreme Soviet.

Minsk, September 22: A demand to remove the decrees was put forward at a discussion organized by the Talaka Club. Most of the speakers described the decrees as unconstitutional.

September 23: The Democratic Union approved an open appeal to the deputies of the 10th session of the Supreme Soviet to reject the decrees.

THE SOVIET OPPOSITION

September 23: The Democratic Union approved an open appeal to the deputies of the 10th session of the Supreme Soviet to reject the decrees.

On July 28 and 29 the Soviet Government issued decrees designed to give the authorities greater control over public meetings and demonstrations. They create a form of militia unit designed specifically for crowd control and give the Army wide-ranging powers to enter private houses and arrest individuals without charge. Public protests began within days. Below are some of the more recent significant events in a rising tide of protest.

Kiev, September 25: The Popular Front in Support of Perestroika organized a meeting against the decrees. A petition to deputies of the Supreme Soviet calling for the decrees to be revoked was being prepared.

The meeting was officially sanctioned, and a club was offered as a venue, but the hall was packed with KGB officials in plain clothes before the start. They tried to show the decrees were constitutional.

Kiev, September 27: Two people collecting signatures for a petition against the decrees were detained for 1½ hours and warned that their activities were in violation of the decrees.

Leningrad, October 2: At a charity concert in Leningrad to raise funds for Memorial, members of the north-west section of the Democratic Union collected signatures for a petition to the deputies of the Supreme Soviet to revoke the decrees.

Moscow, October 4: At a meeting organized by the Democratic Perestroika Club, L.S. Sychev, the leader of Rossiya, a patriotic union, demanded the removal of the decrees.

Gorky, October 5: About 50 leaflets were distributed advertising a meeting in Theatre Square to discuss the decrees and the new powers of troops to search and arrest people without warrants.

Odessa, October 6: An Ekspres Khoronka correspondent, Yelena Danielyan, reported that the procurator of the region has protested against the announcement on August 18 that Viktor Pavlovsky had been fined 150 roubles for violating the decrees. According to information received by Pavlovsky from the procurator, these decrees did not come into force until August 27.

Kyivshyber, October 6: Three members of the organizing committee of the Popular Front were detained. They belonged to an initiative group which was organizing a protest meeting on October 7.

Moscow, October 7: Signatures were collected in Pushkin Square against the

decrees during a demonstration organized by the Democratic Union. Placards said the country was a concentration camp. About 16 people were detained by the militia and taken to different militia stations.

Viktor Sergeyev, a member of the group, Emigration for All, was sentenced that evening in the Frunze District People's Court to 15 days' administrative arrest.

Leningrad, October 7: Thirteen independent groups, including the International Society for Human Rights, the Democratic Union and the Social Democratic Union organized a meeting in the Lokomotiv Stadium, sanctioned by the city authorities. Between 7,000 and 10,000 people attended.

Signatures were collected on several petitions, including one calling for the revocation of the decrees. Valery Tereshkov from the Democratic

Union pointed out the need for glasnost in state affairs and expressed no confidence in the policies of the Soviet Communist Party.

Rostislav Yevdokimov told the meeting that the public was not allowed to discuss the decrees and that the expression of the will of the people was impossible, given that permission had to be sought from local executive committees to hold meetings — and they have shown that they are not willing to allow demonstrations critical of themselves.

Leningrad, October 9: A temporary organizing committee to campaign against ratification of the decrees was formed. Signatures were being collected for a petition to the 10th Session of the Supreme Soviet. The organizing committee includes: Y. Podolstev, V. Tereshkov, C. Dobashevich and M. Dudchenko.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Navy abandons Melbourne visit

Sydney — After three days, the Ark Royal yesterday abandoned attempts to dock at Melbourne, beaten by gale-force winds, heavy seas and union power (Christopher Morris writes).

The Royal Navy aircraft carrier first tried to enter the harbour last Friday, but militant seamen refused to send out tugs, in support of disarmament groups which claim the warship is carrying nuclear arms. Several more attempts were made to manoeuvre the vessel into the docks for a 10-day goodwill visit. But without tugs and in such stormy seas, it was far too dangerous. Shortly after noon yesterday, the decision was made to call off the visit to Melbourne.

More than 1,000 anti-nuclear protesters at the docks claimed a victory in their campaign to persuade the Australian Government to ban all visits by nuclear-armed or nuclear-capable ships to the country's ports.

Cambodia setback

Jakarta — The latest round of informal talks in the Indonesian capital aimed at settling the Cambodian conflict has been dealt a blow by the decision of the Khmer Rouge, one of the warring factions, not to attend the meeting (Our Correspondent writes).

But Indonesia insists that the talks will go ahead. Senior officials from the four Cambodian factions, Vietnam, Laos and the six non-communist south-east Asian countries are scheduled to start three days of talks here today to decide on the next stage of the Indonesian-led Cambodian peace initiative.

Canada Tories ahead

Ottawa — A Conservative tide appears to be building up as the Canadian election campaign rolls towards the November 21 voting date (John Best writes).

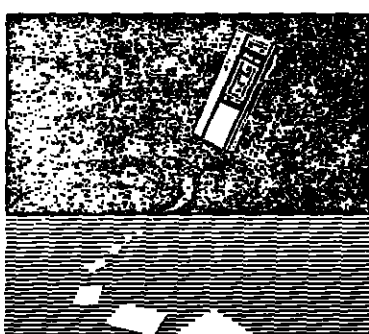
A series of opinion surveys in the past week or so have shown the Tories, led by the Prime Minister, Mr Brian Mulroney, well ahead and within striking distance of forming another majority government. Only a year ago the Tories were running third behind the Liberals and the New Democratic Party.

Bridge Olympiad

Venice (AP) — With only two days to go in the 28-team round-robin in Group A, Greece, Austria and the United States are in good position to qualify for the quarter-finals of the World Contract Bridge Olympiad in Venice.

In Group B, only Italy and Denmark are in a strong position. Britain, Ireland, France, Portugal and India are fighting for the last two quarter-final berths, but in the Women's Olympiad Britain has a substantial lead in Group A, with Mexico, China and Sweden scrambling for second place. France and Denmark are well ahead in Group B.

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PHILIPS

CIA doubt on Soviet reform

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

A high-ranking CIA official, in unusually outspoken remarks, said that it was doubtful whether President Gorbachev, who is facing an intense struggle over the pace and scope of domestic reforms, could in the end rejuvenate the Soviet system.

Mr Robert Gates, deputy director of the CIA, said in a speech on Friday that the KGB was concerned about the potential for instability in the Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe created by any relaxation of political controls.

"Indeed, we have counted some 600 popular disturbances since early 1987, about half of them relating to ethnic issues. There have been major nationalist demonstrations in nine of the 15 Soviet republics

since last January," he told a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Mr Gates, in another speech on Saturday to the Association of Former Intelligence Officers, said that since Mr Gorbachev's rise to power, the hostile intelligence threat against the US had grown.

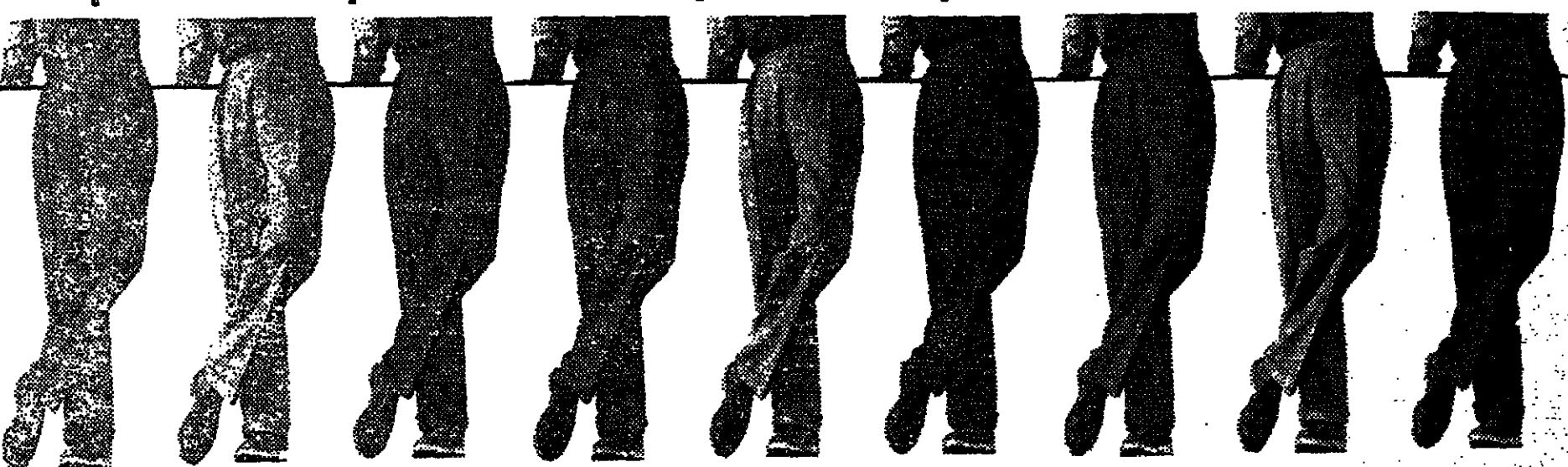
The number of operations against America had increased. Mr Gates warned: "Despite improved US-Soviet relations, we have seen an increase this year of attempts to recruit US sources. The choice of Mr Vladimir Kryuchkov as chairman of the KGB likely would mean an intensification of Soviet intelligence efforts against the United States and its allies."

He observed that the Soviet population seemed to be passively supportive of Mr Gorbachev's reforms. It had seen campaigns for change come and go and was deeply sceptical that Mr Gorbachev's efforts would produce lasting results or even immediate pay-offs.

"The intelligentsia are probably the only group that comes close to giving wholehearted support — a weak reed in the Soviet Union," he said.

Mr Gates said that Mr Gorbachev had shown "real political muscle" in his recent Politburo shake-up. But even now, he probably could count on only three or four out of 12 Politburo members as being totally his men and consistently supportive.

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Piccadilly

Republican strategists plot final offensive to capture the White House but warn of over-confidence

Vice-President's TV win seen as decisive

From Christopher Thomas, Denver

An exhausted, euphoric Vice-President George Bush went to the Broncos football game and rested at his son Neil's house in Denver yesterday while advisers plotted a final strategy to carry him to the White House.

Internal Republican polls show him forging ahead after a decisive victory in Thursday night's television debate with Governor Michael Dukakis. Privately, senior campaign managers believe the Vice-President is now unstoppable.

But Mr Bush, who campaigned hard in California for two days after the debate — sometimes with California celebrities like Telly Savalas, Chuck Norris and a couple of the Beach Boys at his side — cautioned against over-confidence and pledged to run a flat-out campaign for the remaining three weeks.

He described his debate performance as a sort of gunfight at the OK Corral. In his view he was Marshal Wyatt Earp. "Governor Dukakis is not going to out-hustle me or out-work me. I don't intend to mess up," he said.

"The American people had a chance to watch two candidates in action," he declared.

at a rally in Carritas, a Los Angeles suburb. "We came at each other pretty hard and when the smoke cleared it was pretty clear where we stood. I believe I moved my campaign forward."

Bush campaign aides said they were surprised that Mr Dukakis did not attempt to move more to the political centre in a debate that offered him perhaps his final opportunity to close a widening gap in the opinion polls.

Mr James Baker, the Bush campaign chairman, said the Massachusetts Governor had too much to handle in the debate by seeking both to appear warmer and more likeable, and also attempting to damage the Vice-President.

A new *Los Angeles Times* survey gives Mr Bush a 53-43 per cent lead. According to the latest Republican estimates, the Vice-President now has 205-236 electoral college votes, moving him close to the

270 needed to become President.

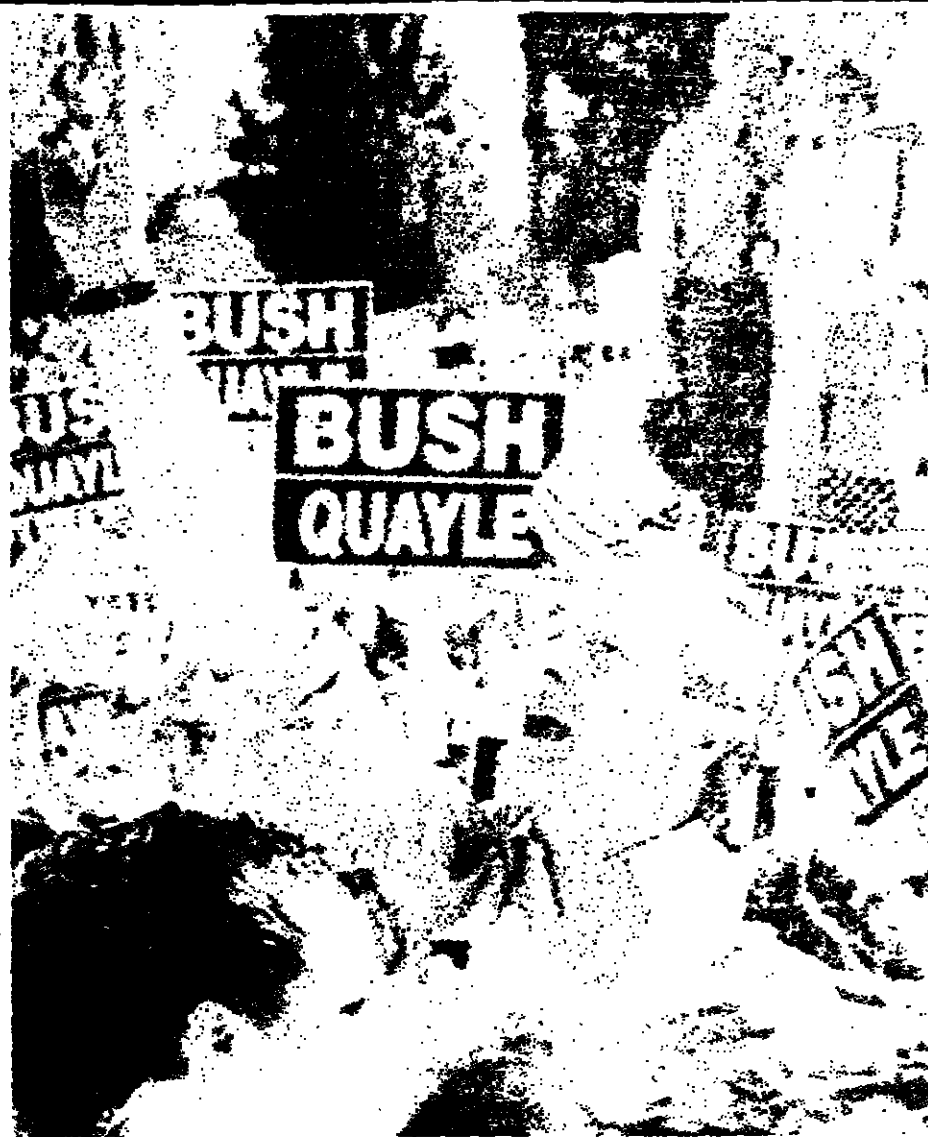
Mr Lee Atwater, the Bush campaign manager, said Mr Dukakis needed to win all the large Midwestern and Northeastern states, as well as California — which alone has 47 electoral votes — to win. "If he loses one of them, he's out," he added.

He said the greatest danger for the Bush campaign now was over-confidence. Senior aides suggested that Mr Bush might take the "high road" over the next three weeks by letting up on his attacks on Mr Dukakis. But they insisted that he would remain aggressive and ready to meet what was expected to be a barrage of negative campaigning by the Democratic contender in a final push to close the gap.

Under a new game plan Mr Bush will spend more time talking about foreign policy and defence, while continuing to press his message of toughness on law and order, which has proved to be a big vote getter.

Beginning on October 24 he will remain on the road until election day.

Leading article page 17
States' new deal, page 16



A jubilant Mr Bush pointing to parachutists at the end of a rally at Modesto, California.

Scandal rumours hover over the Bush campaign

By Nicholas Beeston

As Vice-President George Bush enters the final lap of the presidential campaign in confident style, ahead of Governor Michael Dukakis, his Democratic rival, reports about scandals in his personal and professional past may yet return to plague him before polling day on November 8.

None of the allegations, which have featured over the past year in *The New York Times*, *Playboy* magazine and the left-wing publication *LA Weekly*, have been substantiated and the Bush camp has denied them categorically.

The Republican candidate — already tainted by the Iran-Contra affair and his association with General Antonio Noriega, the leader of Panama and its main drugs baron — is also accused of engaging in an arms-for-hostages deal with Iran as early as 1980 and reportedly being a "cocktail-party legend" for at least two extra-marital romances in the past 12 years.

Potentially the most serious scandal, which has gained momentum this year, is the claim by the former President of Iran, Mr Abolhassan Bani-Sadr, that Mr Bush and other

senior aides of President Reagan negotiated a deal with the Iranians in October, 1980, for the release of the 52 hostages in the US Embassy in Tehran, but only after the Republican election victory over Mr Jimmy Carter.

Mr Bani-Sadr has repeated the allegation to several newspapers, including *The Times*, claiming that his own intelligence service briefed him about three meetings between representatives of Tehran and members of the Reagan-Bush campaign team.

One meeting was held at the L'Enfant Plaza Hotel in Washington during September, 1980, between an unidentified man, two future White House national security advisers, Mr Richard Allen and Mr Robert McFarlane, and a future federal judge, Mr Laurence Silberman.

Mr Bani-Sadr and a former employee of the White House, Miss Barbara Honegger, who has been investigating the subject, claimed that three subsequent meetings were held in Paris between high-ranking members of the Reagan team, intermediaries and Iranian politicians.

Dukakis camp fights against mood of defeat

From Charles Bremner, Boston

Like a football team fighting to make up goals and restore morale from far behind, Governor Michael Dukakis and his advisers thrashed out a last-ditch game plan yesterday designed to strike Vice-President George Bush in three key regions, and halt what many see as a looming national landslide for the Republican candidate.

In Chauncy Street, the campaign headquarters where Mr Dukakis launched his long-shot bid for the presidency two years ago, the gloom was palpable as the staff marvelled at the way their man fumbled last Thursday's debate.

"It's back to the wall now," said one official.

"It's at least 50 to 1 against, maybe more than 100 to 1," said a depressed senior official as the Governor was closeted with Mr John Sasso, Mr Paul Brontas and Miss Susan Estrich, the top managers of his campaign, to devise a strategy to concentrate resources in the last three weeks on unlocking the swing vote in the North-East, Mid-West and California.

Campaign sources said they had effectively conceded most of the South as an impregnable base for Mr Bush.

But the debate debacle, in which the Governor was unseated by the first question and never recovered, seems to have stirred the aggressive underdog in him, the side that enabled him to come from a long way behind in the marathon campaign for the Democratic nomination last June.

With the scent of obituary in the air, Mr Dukakis abandoned his recent distance

himself to be demonized by the slick Bush campaign. The final debate was the last straw.

"Dukakis is not leading, but managing and doing a lousy job. He doesn't listen, at least he doesn't listen to the right people," said David Nyhan of the *Boston Globe*, the Governor's home-town newspaper.

The Dukakis high command acknowledged the image problem in a covering memo sent out from Boston to the travelling group after the debate. "Hang in there, Governor," it said. "There is little we can do in this race if the other runner is getting a ride in a limo while you're charging up Heartbreak Hill and the crowd and the media do not notice."

"But if you run hard enough through the finish line, maybe people will realize that President Bush can be just as troubling to a nation as President Quayle."

The Dukakis team has conceded that part of the

● He should file a suit against his advertising agency ●

communications failure stems from inept television commercials.

Madison Avenue experts have pronounced them a disaster, and former President Richard Nixon said: "Dukakis should file a malpractice suit against his ad agency. His ads look as if they have been produced by Roger Ailes." (Mr Ailes is the media consultant who is largely credited with devising the successful Bush strategy).

New advertisements which were launched yesterday show a mild and benign Governor Dukakis standing by a chair talking straight to camera and avoiding any aggressive jibes at his rival. In one commercial he says: "As a nation you know we are 200 years young, but we're getting out of shape."

While the Republicans are laughing now at the Governor's attempts to convince America that things are not as good as they look, the Dukakis team is aiming at the "Reagan Democrats" — and undecided lower middle-class voters who have not done well from the Reagan boom.

In the remaining three weeks, the Governor will be hammering the scene stressing that the prosperity is illusory in the North-East, the big industrial Mid-Western states, California, Oregon and Washington state. According to the polls, the Democrats still have a chance of winning the 47 electoral votes of California, the glittering prize in the equation of the Electoral College.

At the same time Mr Dukakis will take the offensive to peel away the image-makers' gloss from the Bush persona.

With Mr Dukakis falling far behind in the tracking polls of both campaigns, senior Democrats are beginning to talk about the possibility of disaster for their congressional race as well.

If the Governor falls to a two-figure defeat, the momentum could unseat Democrats from the House of Representatives and the Senate where they now hold the majority.



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Aftermath of Algeria riots

Reforms fail to cure root cause of unrest

From Christopher Walker, Algiers

The self-proclaimed "second Algerian revolution" is over. But apart from emergency measures to stock empty food shops and the promise of political reforms to water down the one-party dictatorship, little has been done to eliminate the root causes.

Confirmation that the Government of President Chadli Benjedid had finally regained its nerve came over the weekend when some 500 minors being held without trial — and in some cases, the alleged victims of torture — were freed. In another conciliatory gesture, the authorities announced the temporary suspension of the military tribunals trying suspected rioters, while improvements were made in legal facilities for them. Some have already received eight-year terms.

Despite these moves, the sight of tanks spraying 23mm machine gun fire at unarmed demonstrators has left a legacy of bitterness, which observers believe could easily explode again unless rapid measures are taken to eliminate the grievances of Al-

geria's youth, more than 70 per cent of the population.

Karim, aged 21, a resident of Bab-el-Oued, the slum where more than 30 unarmed protesters were gunned down in a single incident, said: "Even the Zionists use mainly plastic bullets when they are attacking the Palestinians. Our people used lead bullets."

He and many other disaffected young people have only reluctantly put away the makeshift weapons with which they defied the security forces. For the present, the Muslim religious leaders to whom they increasingly look for solace from their material misery have cautioned against more violence. But those who know their fanaticism believe that, in the future, the radical imams will again try to exert the new power that the uprising has given them.

Unlike the *intifada*, the Palestinian revolt in the Israeli occupied territories from which it gained much inspiration, Algeria's uprising lacked a unified leadership or a single, coherent goal. The great majority of Muslims in

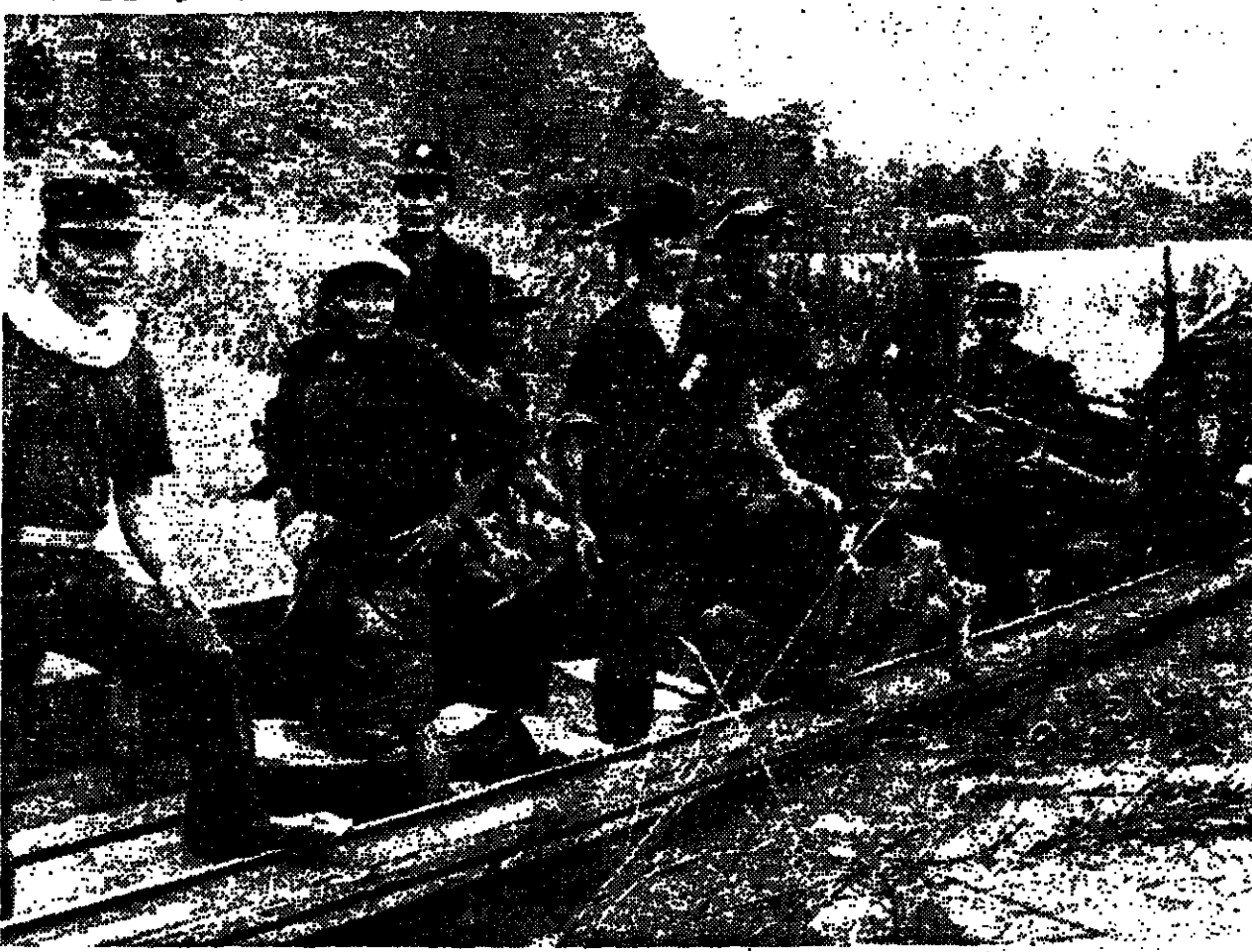
Algeria are from the moderate Sunni sect, and do not aspire to an Iranian-style state.

A Western envoy said: "It was a spontaneous outburst of anger at the corrupt privileges of the party and military élite. The pot was then stirred by both hard-leftists, opposed even to the moderate economic reforms of Chadli, and by the Muslim Brothers, always out to boost their own influence."

After days of absence, the President intervened twice in 48 hours to offer a package of reforms which, in the first instance, will boost the standing of the 281-member National Popular Assembly *vis-à-vis* the backroom power machine of the ruling National Liberation Front, the single legalized party.

● **Trials start:** Large groups of demonstrators arrested in the riots went on trial in Algiers yesterday, despite reports that the authorities had suspended the hastily-arranged hearings earlier, the defendants' lawyers said. They added that the authorities had arrested more people over the weekend.

Tension rises on Thai-Burma border



Karen rebels patrolling the west bank of the Moel river, which separates Burma and Thailand, after recent fighting during which they claim to have recaptured several strategic hills from Burmese government troops. Military

activity on the Thai-Burmese border has been stepped up, with the Thai Government now taking action against illegal Burmese immigrants, many of whom are fleeing the recent crackdown on the opposition (AFP reports from Bangkok).

Two leaders of Burma's largest anti-government student union, U Win Mye and U Aung Nang, were deported to Burma late on Friday, Thai officials said. The two were escorted to the border crossing of Mae Hong Son.

Papyrus vessel stopped by gales

Athens (AP) — Gale-force winds forced six Greeks paddling a papyrus boat across the Aegean Sea to abandon their attempt to recreate a 10,000-year-old trading voyage from Athens to the island of Melos.

The Hellenic Institute of Naval Tradition said that it was "impossible" for a boat 21 ft long "to face such weather conditions at a time when larger ships were forced to return to safe harbours. The canoe-like open boat, named Papyrus, and made of yellow papyrus stems lashed together with rope, was forced to abandon its attempt at the Cycladic island of Serifos.

Bus deaths

Peking (Reuters) — Forty-three people were killed and 40 injured in central China when a bus, carrying 83 passengers instead of the statutory 38, caught fire after colliding with another vehicle.

Envoy's medal

Havana (AFP) — President Castro decorated Señor Carlos Medina Pérez, the former third secretary at the Cuban Embassy in London, who was expelled from Britain last month for a shooting involving an alleged deserter from Cuban intelligence.

Baby dealers

La Plata, Argentina (AFP) — Police said that they broke up a ring which allegedly sold new-born babies through connections overseas, arresting two women obstetricians and three other people.

Troop pull-out

Bangkok (AP) — Vietnam said it would complete its withdrawal of 50,000 soldiers from Cambodia as planned by December.

More bleeding

Tokyo (Reuters) — Emperor Hirohito, the ailing Japanese monarch, was still bleeding internally but was stable, a palace official said.

Queen dies

Cairo (Reuters) — Former Queen Farida of Egypt, divorced by King Farouk in 1948, died of leukaemia in hospital, aged 68.

Obituary, page 18

Thatcher's rhetoric masks deep commitment to Europe

In attacking — not once but three times — the nightmare of "socialism imposed from Brussels" or "Euro-collectivism", is Mrs Thatcher "tilting at windmills", as even some in her own party suggest?

The seminal text remains the Bruges speech: "We have not successfully rolled back the frontiers of the state in Britain only to see them reimposed at a European level, with a European superstate exercising a new dominance from Brussels."

This was repeated in Luxembourg shortly afterwards, and given a further twist in Brighton last Friday when she declared: "We have not worked all these years to free Britain from the paralysis of socialism only to see it creep in through the back door of central control and bureaucracy from Brussels."

The main target appears to be the attempt by M Jacques Delors, the President of the European Commission — indelibly nicknamed "Frère Jacques" after his address to

the Trades Union Congress last month — to give the Single European Market in 1992 a "social dimension".

The TUC speech clearly confirmed Mrs Thatcher's suspicion that M Delors, a French Socialist, sees 1992 in terms of an old-fashioned tripartite relationship between government, industry and trade unions through "social dialogue".

This raises the spectre of the union power that Mrs Thatcher has emasculated in Britain being revived at EEC level.

The Commission certainly takes the view that 1992 needs to benefit workers as well as industrialists, with measures to tackle unemployment and aid to the poorer EEC regions. It also envisages harmonization of employees' rights, including worker participation.

But the Commission has in fact watered down its "social dialogue" ideas, and much of what it proposes would be voluntary, not compulsory.

The countries which will have

the EEC presidency successively — Greece, Spain and France — all have socialist governments, but are hardly "collectivist", and neither for that matter is M Delors.

Privatization has taken root in Europe, and Señor Felipe González, the Spanish Prime Minister, or President Mitterrand of France, are scarcely less fervent champions of free enterprise capitalism than Mrs Thatcher herself. The Prime

Brussels View

By Richard Owen

Minister's real target is European federalism, which she equates with central control and bureaucracy. Mrs Thatcher asserted at Brighton that the choice was between a Europe based on enterprise and one "governed by methods of central control and regulation".

But the choice is not a real one. Last week, for example, Chancellor Helmut Kohl of West Germany called in a speech in Berlin for full European integration, with a Euro-

pean army as well as a European police force, a message he is likely to repeat in Brussels tomorrow. But Herr Kohl is no central planner: he is a Christian Democrat, and firmly on the political right, alongside Mrs Thatcher.

There is a risk, in other words, that in seeking to ensure that 1992 opens up markets and free trade without becoming a vehicle for economic and political union, Mrs Thatcher may tar all those who favour a united Europe without internal frontiers with the brush of "socialism".

This presents the Conservatives in the European Parliament with a painful dilemma. Their leader, Mr Christopher Prout, attacked M Delors during the debate on Europe at Brighton. But a large number of Euro Tories are open "federalists", and last month several of them accused Mrs Thatcher of "massive contradictions" in her approach to the EEC.

Two Euro Tories voted for a resolution in the Parliament's institutional affairs committee call-

ing for a United States of Europe, using Churchill's post-war vision of a united Europe as ideological support.

The "federalists" are opposed by an influential group of pro-Thatcher "loyalists", known as the Blue Circle, and the tensions seem bound to come to a head next week when the Parliament debates a further resolution condemning Mrs Thatcher for her "anti-European" views.

In fact, the Prime Minister's interventions have not been "anti-European" at all. At Bruges she emphasized that British links to the Continent were "the dominant factor in our history", and that Britain's destiny "is in Europe, as part of the Community".

Many continental politicians share her concern about controlling crime and drugs in 1992, but dare not say so in case they too are accused as "anti-European".

Figures released last week by the Commission, moreover, show that whatever the rhetoric, Britain has one of the best records of compli-

ance with EEC law, far better than such ostensibly pro-European states as Italy.

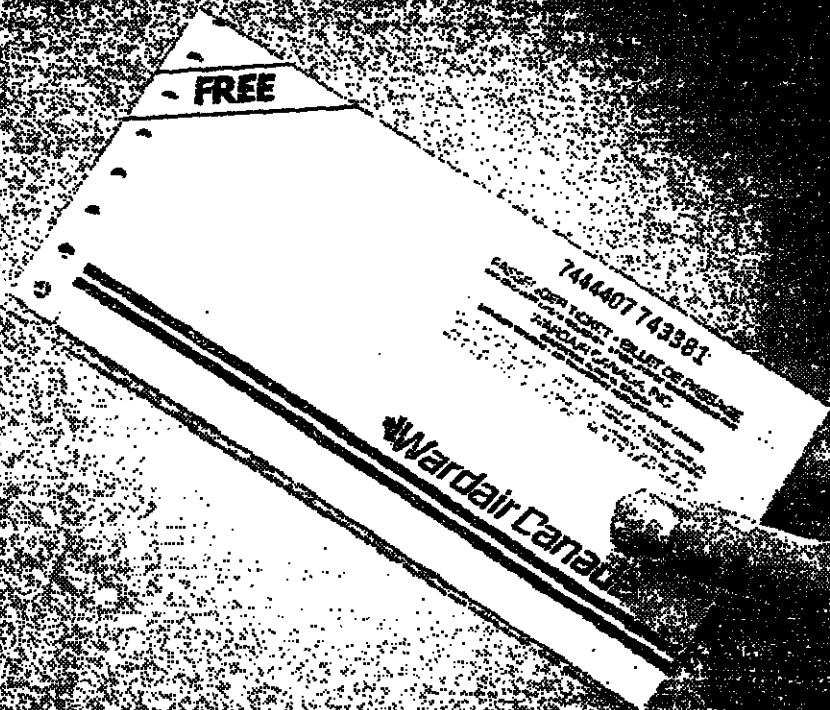
The overall impression that Britain is still a reluctant EEC member, in other words, stems from the rhetoric.

The reality is that Mrs Thatcher has taken a full, often exhaustive, part in EEC decisions, usually improving them through common sense, as was the case with the Delors financial reform package in February; that the British economy is already closely enmeshed with that of Europe; and that the overall 1992 aim of deregulation is largely British-influenced. But the tone conveys a different message.

Part of the purpose of the rhetoric may be to persuade British voters that they need not fear a loss of sovereignty in the single market. But this could backfire.

The real problem — how to compensate for inevitable partial loss of sovereignty by making Brussels more democratically accountable — has not really been dealt with at all.

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Pope celebrates his first 10 controversial years

From Roger Boyes, Rome

The Pope has been kissing tarmac at welcoming airports for 10 years, as well as making himself the butt of feminists, the scourge of dictators, the comforter of the poor and a stern father to wayward priests. He has also been called a reactionary, a conservative, a heretic, a progressive, and (the Reverend Ian Paisley's recent outburst in the European Parliament bringing the list up-to-date) Antichrist. Many Pope have lasted a full decade, but few could stand the pace for 20 years. This is a Pope who travels in the most arduous way, not to entertain himself or contract business, but to instruct and to listen. He has made 39 pilgrimages to all continents, but he stays fit, being a swimmer and a skier.

Karol Wojtyla, the Polish Pope, the first non-Italian on the Throne of St Peter's for 455 years, may eventually be remembered as one of the most political pontiffs of the 20th century — and he would hate it.

He is the creature of the Second Vatican Council, which committed the Roman Catholic Church to a more open approach to the world. The result is that many of the Pope's actions and words, although having spiritual intent, operate in a political context.

On the way to Chile last year, the Pope as usual strode to the back of the Vatican jet to chat with the press corps. A

reporter drew the comparison between General Pinochet of Chile and General Jaruzelski of Poland: how was the Church to behave towards such dictatorships?

The Pope's reply was to the effect that General Pinochet was a transitional figure, not the product of a system, and that the Church could accelerate change. There does indeed seem scope for the Church to press for reform successfully in authoritarian regimes; although the Pope appeared, controversially, on a balcony with the plainly satisfied General Pinochet, his visit can be regarded as the beginning of the end for the Chilean President.

Similar efforts can be noticed in the Philippines. Hardly even the Poland of Edward Gierk. The Pope lays time fuses while at the same time deploring priests who become active politicians.

In his 10 years, the Pope has spent 353 days on the road. There are those in the Curia who dislike this because, they think, it devalues the importance of Rome and ultimately undermines the authority of the Pope.

Certainly, no Pope has ever been so openly defied so many times, above all in the United States and western Europe, where anything he says about divorce, homosexuality, birth control, abortion, women or married priests is immediately greeted with a barrage of boos.



The Pope praying with Cardinals during Mass in St Peter's Square, Rome, yesterday, the 10th anniversary of his election.

A Pope in Seattle demands an audience.

To the increasingly secular world, it seems that the Pope is out of step. Turin city council was recently shocked when, on a brief visit, he told them that the Devil was very active in their otherwise

charming city. True, a conference on demonology is due to begin next week. True, the Turin shroud has been declared a forgery. True, there has been a rise in exorcisms in northern Italy. But the Devil? Yet the Pope is simply operating with the traditional

Christian iconography to make social points, in much the same way as he creates saints as moral examples.

Father Paulo Morinari, president of the College of Postulators, told *The Times* recently that the Pope had canonized no fewer than 17

saints and beatified 91 people in his 10 years. In his 15 year papacy, Paul VI canonized 21 and beatified only 31.

Following the teaching of the Second Vatican Council, these new saints are drawn from a wide social and racial spread — children, soldiers, a

married woman, and many lay people, are among those beatified.

In the ugly but youthful sociological jargon, the Pope is searching for today's role models.

Over the past 10 years he has become more sensitive to his audience. He has had both listening and deaf phases, but is currently a listening Pope.

His latest writings on women show a real concern for feminine dilemmas and pay respect to the dignity of woman, but they do not change the dogma. And the Pope's handling of the schism this summer with Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre was delicate. The Vatican tried hard, but not too hard, to keep the Archbishop.

It would have been easy, if cynical, to make further concessions but, had the Pope done so, he would have lost many believers who regenerated their faith through the Second Vatican Council, or who converted to Catholicism because of the prospects of a more open church.

Yet, inevitably, there is an important gap between promise and reality in this pontificate.

The Pope believes strongly in contacts with other faiths, in a kind of global coalition of belief; but he is constrained by the conservatism of his creed.

He cannot and will not refine his position on women priests in order to bring the Anglican Church closer to Rome. Nor can he com-

promise on the status of the Ukrainian church, banned by Moscow, so as to build bridges with the Russian Orthodox Church.

And his many contacts and statements on the proper relationship of Christians to Jews always seem to fall short of expectations. He is an ecumenical Pope but there are obvious limits to what he can achieve.

The danger in the second decade of the Polish pontificate is that the Pope could allow himself to become the Church. Christian tradition has always emphasized the mediator, the intermediary role within the organization of the Church.

The faithful knew their priest personally and their Bishop vaguely, but the Pope in the Vatican was a faraway figure. Now this distance has been compressed. To many, the Pope is the Church in this world.

Believers see more of him — through television coverage, in which he appears two-dimensional — than they see of their parish priest.

The contrast with Pope John XXIII is very stark. John did not travel, hardly ever spoke to the press and lived in a net of personal relations. Yet who is the better Pope?

● DUBLIN: The Pope wants to make a second visit to Ireland, and he particularly wants to visit Ulster, the Right Reverend John Magee, Bishop of Cloyne, his former private secretary, said yesterday.

Donations likely to trim Vatican deficit of £32 m

From Our Own Correspondent, Rome

The Vatican's operating deficit is likely to drop steeply this year because of increased donations from Roman Catholic communities, according to Church sources.

The Vatican has teetered on the edge of bankruptcy for a decade but, according to accounts to be presented this week, spending is being brought under control.

Several cardinals and bishops on the Council for the Study of Organizational and Economic Problems have been summoned to Rome for financial discussions.

Various revenue producing schemes have been proposed and some — such as the marketing of compact discs from St Peter's and a Vatican television station — will go into operation soon.

The cardinals have been asked to find income to minimize dependence on Peter's Pence — the annual donations from Catholic communities — to bail out the Vatican. In theory, Peter's Pence should provide the Pope with extra cash for personal charity instead of paying his household bills.

The Vatican's 1986 deficit was 33 billion lire (£14 million), growing to 77 billion lire (£32 million) in 1987 but should drop dramatically to 10 billion lire this year, due largely to Peter's Pence

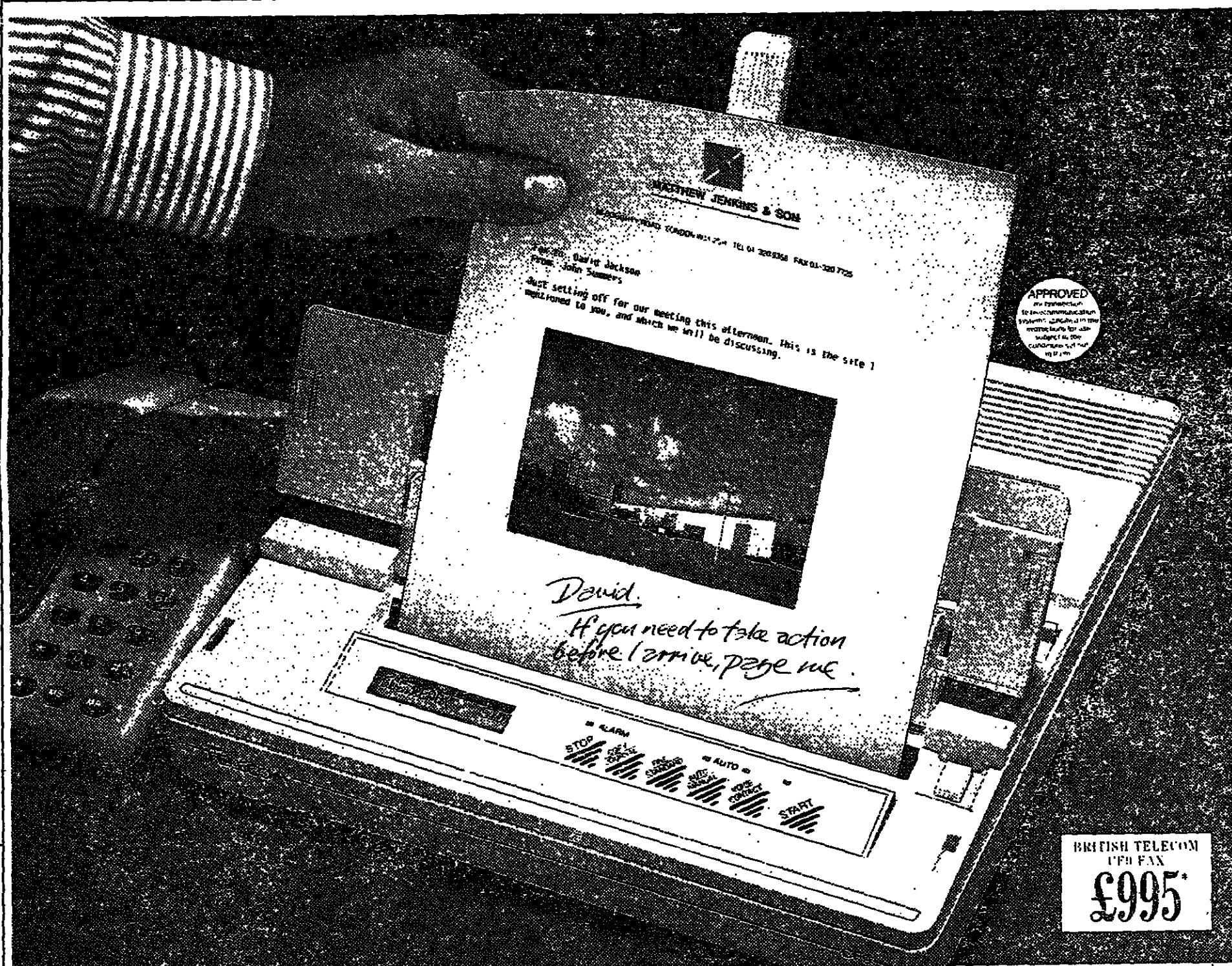
contributions of \$50 million, 57 per cent up on 1986.

Some \$17 million come from the United States and \$16 million from West Germany. Since this income is calculated in dollars and Vatican expenditure is in Italian lire, much hinges on the exact exchange rate chosen by the Church's financial experts.

Vatican income also comes from investments (about 28 billion lire) and property. It has been noticeable over the past year that the Vatican has been raising rents on church-owned property in Rome (the Oxfam shop, leased from the Vatican, was evicted from its site in Rome earlier this year).

The biggest expenses are for personnel — 53.8 per cent of the total Vatican budget. Vatican salaries have been strictly kept down over the past few years and the cost crackdown recently provoked a strike by employees. Although Vatican staff receive some perks — including cheap European Community meat and subsidized petrol — their salaries are abysmally low and they have no pension fund.

The American and West German churches, effectively the paymasters of the Holy See, have been critical of the Vatican's management techniques. They have also complained about the lack of candour on Vatican finance.



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Manila agrees interim deal over US bases

From Humphrey Hawksley, Manila

After seven months of tough and often acrimonious negotiations, the United States and Philippines have struck a deal on American military facilities here, seen by Washington as vital to maintain the balance of power in the Indian and Pacific oceans.

President Aquino said his chief negotiator, Mr Raul Manglapus, the Foreign Minister, would be signing the agreement with the American Secretary of State, Mr George Shultz, in Washington today, but gave no details of what amount of money and other assistance was provided in the package.

The Americans consider the big Clark airfield and Subic Bay naval base, north of Manila, as among their most important facilities, particularly as the Soviet Union has begun to woo support among Pacific Third World countries.

The agreement still leaves the long-term future of the bases in doubt. The deal only lasts until 1991, when the two countries have to negotiate a new long-term treaty. As the debate became a public issue, an anti-bases movement suddenly flourished.

The Philippines initially asked for \$1.2 billion (£706

million) a year in compensation for the bases. The deal is now reported to include just under \$500 million in direct aid, together with trade concessions and funds to help pay off the country's crippling \$29 billion foreign debt.

It is not yet clear if the anti-bases lobby will become enough of a force to break the post-colonial ties between the two countries. Early indications are that it will not.

Perhaps the most telling comment came from a right-wing military officer who is a member of a government bases think-tank. "Very quickly the bases issue became one about money," he said. "And once you take money, you can't expect to be treated like a lady."

● WASHINGTON: Mr Stephen Solarz, the Chairman of the House of Representatives sub-committee on Asian and Pacific affairs, saw the agreement as a sign of continuing close ties between Manila and Washington (Mohsin Ali writes).

"I think this agreement now significantly increases the possibility that we will be able to remain there probably up at least until the end of the century," he said.



Workers repairing the statue of General McArthur in Palo, the Philippines yesterday after assailants threw explosives from a car before the 44th anniversary of the US landing there.

Aid to returning refugees

UN funds could promote Afghan drug production

From Edward Gorman, Peshawar

With the prospect of hundreds of thousands of refugees beginning to return to Afghanistan early next year, foreign aid workers in the Pakistani city of Peshawar are warning that assistance programmes organized by the United Nations could cause a dramatic surge in drug production.

Monitoring of refugees who returned from Pakistan last year showed that, along the eastern provinces of Afghanistan, farmers were growing significant amounts of heroin poppies to finance reconstruction of their homes and the purchase of draught animals.

In Nangrahar province, close to the Pakistani border, which was largely destroyed by the Soviet scorched-earth policy, returning farmers were estimated to be devoting in some cases up to 60 per cent of their land to drug-related cash crops. There have also been reports this year of poppies being grown in Kandahar and Helmand in the south.

Now aid workers are warning that key programmes envisaged by the UN special task force on the reconstruction of Afghanistan to distribute wheat to returning refugees could exacerbate the drug problem.

Mr Peter Rees, the director

of the Peshawar office of the British charity Afghanaid, said: "We have told the UN to be very wary of giving out huge amounts of wheat in areas where the wheat price is sensitive, because if there is a significant fall, there will be an increase in the production of drug crops."

He added that relief agencies would try to combat the problem by offering agricultural subsidies and credit schemes to encourage farmers to grow wheat and to keep market prices at a level which made the crop a viable option for families in desperate need of cash. But an upsurge in drug production was inevitable, and he anticipated "a considerable increase for the future".

Mr Naseem Jawad, the director of the Austrian Relief Committee, said that while he agreed that external factors could play an important role, it was not inevitable that drug crops would be the first choice. "There have already been people growing these things in this area, but they might decide to grow cotton or oilseed instead."

Officials in Islamabad, particularly the Americans, who have been actively assisting the Pakistani Government in eradicating heroin production

in the North West Frontier Province, say that drug production in Afghanistan has increased dramatically over the past four years to help finance the war.

They say that poppies grown in Afghanistan are smuggled across the border in the form of opium and then converted into heroin in Pakistan and India before being smuggled to Europe and the US either through Karachi or Bombay.

One official said: "There has been an incredible increase in the amount of heroin poppy grown in Afghanistan due to the complete lack of law and order." He added: "We are watching the refugee problem, and we will make our concerns known to resistance leaders and ultimately to whoever is installed in government in Kabul."

Individual commanders will play a key role, Mr Rees says. That, in some cases, commanders have already effectively outlawed drug production in areas where refugees are returning.

But others have been involved in it for years. One diplomat described the hard-line Hezbi Islami faction of the resistance as "up to its ears in drugs".

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Outrage greets loading of first Mexican reactor

From Phil Davison, Mexico City

After 18 years of planning, construction and controversy, Mexico formally joined the nuclear club at the weekend when the Government announced it was starting to load the country's first reactor.

The news that the plant at Laguna Verde had been given the green light evoked immediate widespread outrage from environmentalists and local residents, many of whom feared "another Chernobyl". The opponents planned mass protests around the plant they call "The Monster", overlooking a picturesque beach on the Gulf of Mexico, north of the port of Veracruz.

The environmentalists say the plant is an expensive white elephant which financially-troubled Mexico cannot afford and does not need due to its prodigious oil and natural gas reserves. It is due to produce only 4 per cent of the country's energy needs in its first year.

They cite local witnesses who insist they saw one of the two General Electric 650-megawatt water reactors dented when it was unloaded. The plant is in a potential earthquake zone and within 10 miles of a small but active volcano. The Veracruz coastline is also hammered annually by tropical storms.

Worst of all, according to the opponents, the twin PWR-5 Mark II reactors are based on outdated technology and Mexico's state-run electricity

● Opponents fear another Chernobyl could happen ●

board, which will run the plant, is hardly noted for its efficiency, the critics add.

Ending years of uncertainty through four administrations, however, officials insisted at the weekend that the Government of President De La Madrid was convinced of the plant's safety.

Loading of U-238 uranium purchased from the United States was beginning immediately, would take around three weeks and then six months of tests would be carried out before Laguna Verde went into commercial operation, the officials said.

Some of Señor De La Madrid's political opponents argued that the controversial decision to start up the nuclear plant, a political hot potato before July's general elections, had been taken deliberately during the de facto handover period to his hand-picked successor, Señor Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

Señor Salinas formally takes over on December 1 for a six-year term but moves into the presidential residence this weekend and is already virtually running the country. "This way, whom do you blame if there's a Chernobyl?" ask several De La Madrid opponents.

A US scientist, Dr Robert Pollard, a former official of the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, helped fuel the controversy during past visits here when he criticized the plant as having a faulty containment system and said a Chernobyl could occur there.

The Laguna Verde project was begun in 1970 and was meant to go on stream under President Lopez Portillo in 1978. But as costs spiralled from the original \$500 million

(£303 million) to the present \$3.5 billion, and public awareness increased after the 1979 Three Mile Island accident in the US, the plant became an on-off project, varying with the political mood of the country.

But it was the Chernobyl disaster in 1986 which forced the Mexican Government to take another look at the Laguna Verde plant. Chernobyl galvanised opposition to the project here, with hundreds of thousands involved in street protests calling for the project to be abandoned or converted into a conventional energy plant.

Opposition is strong not only in the Eastern state of Veracruz but in the country's sprawling capital, Mexico City, which, though 175 miles

● Mexico City lies within a possible disaster zone ●

away, is usually directly downwind from Veracruz and would be a potential disaster zone should any Chernobyl-style accident occur.

In the event of any serious disaster, winds would also be likely to fan radiation northwards to the southern US border states.

Leading opposition to the plant is a well known Mexican writer, Homero Aridjis, who heads the Group of 100, mostly artists, whose aim has been to prevent loading of the reactors.

Speaking to *The Times* at the weekend, Señor Aridjis described the Government's decision as "a black day for democracy".

His group had demanded a referendum but instead, Señor De La Madrid had turned Mexico into a nuclear state without any democratic discussion, he said.

Meanwhile, Mexican troops were guarding the plant at the weekend to prevent protesters from interfering with loading of the reactor.

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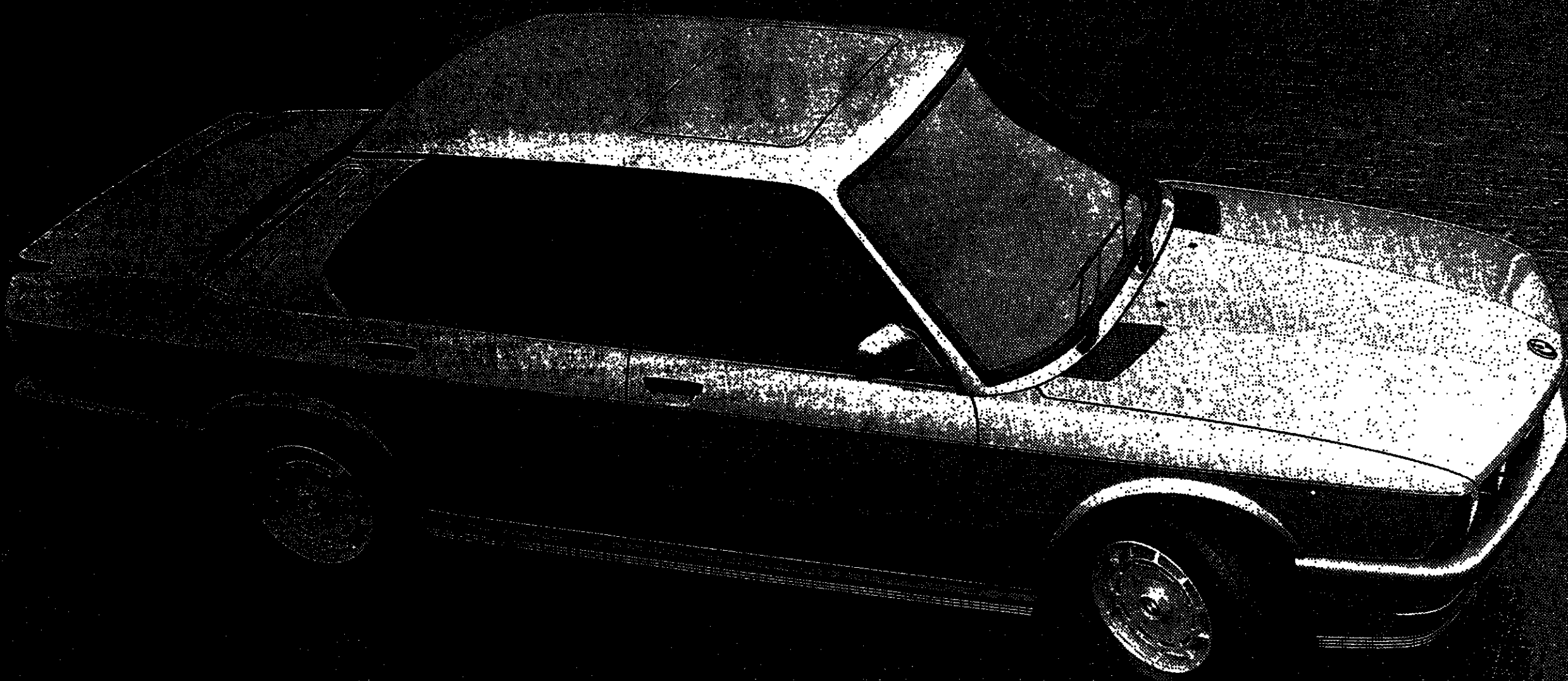
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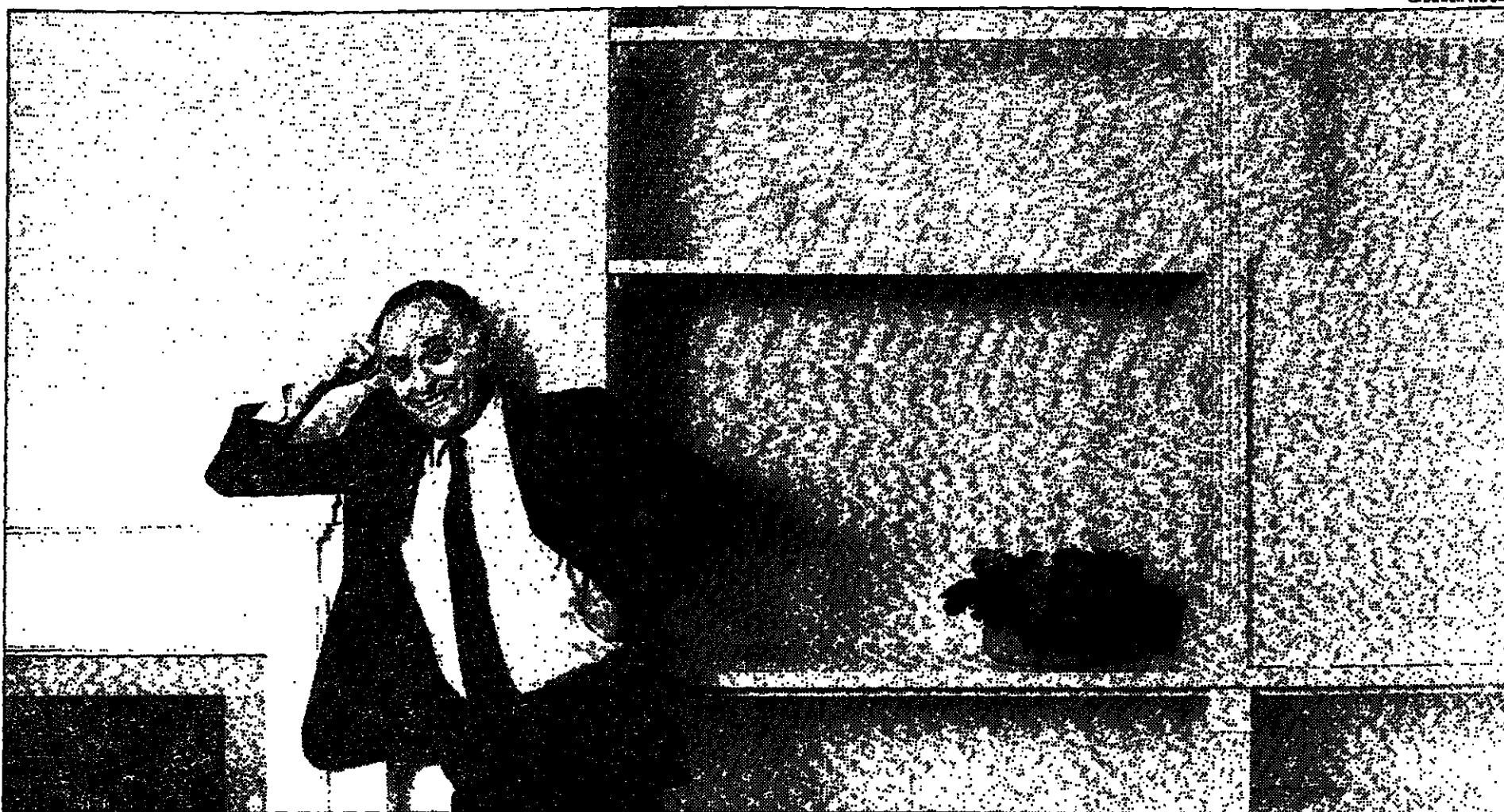
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SPECTRUM

A farewell from the frontline of a stormy period in Anglo-Israeli relations



Goodbye and thank you: Yehuda Avner beside the cleared shelves at his London home where "brave men and women have made it possible for me to walk to my synagogue every week"

Exit, the voice of Israel

Sorry, said Yehuda Avner when we had finished talking, but he had to dash to "change into something a bit smarter. I am off to say goodbye to the Queen." Which is not the sort of thing he imagined he would be doing the last time he was about to leave Britain apparently for good.

That was in 1947 when the 18-year-old Manchester High School boy, born over his father's drapery shop opposite Strangeways Prison, left for Palestine to devote his life to the creation, preservation and advancement of a Jewish homeland — just as he has been doing for the past five years as Israeli Ambassador to the Court of St James's.

Ambassador Avner leaves this morning after presiding over perhaps the most stormy period in Anglo-Israeli relations since 1947. He speaks of the schizophrenia involved in going to make his country's case to a not always-sympathetic Downing Street and yet "knowing that if it had not been for brave and correct decisions taken in these same buildings I would have finished as a cake of soap".

Such schizophrenia had been with him from the first step on to the soil of Palestine, months before the creation amid havoc of the Jewish homeland. He asks that you remember his background, a British schoolboy from "a ghetto where Jewish poverty and non-Jewish poverty lived side by side as allies".

In Palestine Avner joined the Zionist youth movement. His group was used to help and comfort evacuated survivors of the Holocaust. "Seeing these shaven-headed skeletons, hearing what they told,

made an indelible imprint. With obvious consequences. 'Never Again' was not just a slogan. I became a passionate pioneer for our own nation and homeland."

Avner went to Palestine alone, just three weeks before his mother died. In time for "that ecstatic night of the UN resolution that brought Israel into being". And in time to endure the battles as Britain tried to hold the ring for Arabs and Jews. Some memories amuse him. He recalls being arrested carrying weapons for Hagana, the Jewish underground organization, and being taken before a British officer who cried: "Good God, it's Taffy!"

"That was my name in the Lower Sixth. The officer, Jimmy Gosling, had been a prefect in the Upper Sixth."

Another night, when out searching Jerusalem streets for food or water, Avner heard singing above the noise of shells. In a café he found six soldiers. "I joined in the singing. They were astounded. I knew every word of 'Hikla Moor baht al'. I still do."

Not all memories make him grin. His comrade in a siege was a London girl named Esther. She was shot through the head. Two years later, in London for a Zionist youth drive, Avner went to pay respects to her parents. He met her younger sister, Mimi. They went together back to the kibbutz, married, and now they share four children and seven grandchildren.

From the kibbutz, Avner became journalist, information officer, a member of the Israeli foreign service and, since 1974, a permanent official of the Prime Minister's

BRIAN JAMES



TALKS TO YEHUDA AVNER

advisory staff, serving a succession of holders of the office.

He came to London as ambassador at the time of the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. There was "great chilliness in the corridors of Whitehall — little understanding of our case. Some newspapers were guilty of obscene exaggeration about civilian casualties. They even talked of 'genocide'. To me, a Jew, this was monstrous. It was, I am afraid, anti-Semitism."

If Israel was seen in a harsh light in Lebanon, worse was to come. The reaction of her security forces to the uprising on the West Bank has provided a nightly shock-horror show on world television. Avner nods impatiently through the preamble. "Yes, yes, yes. Listen, we have democracy, total freedom for the press. When this began we had a huge foreign press corps, more than 200. That doubled. Then increased again. This became the most-covered strip of land in the world. The cameras bring a crowd, the crowd behaves for the cameras, then cameras show what happens when troops are attacked. And that ex-

plains not a little of this manifestation."

But not all. The fact is, Jewish forces were shown in the role of an oppressive force. Was that comfortable for a man with his memories? "No, this is why I have refused to television interview. Often I went on cold: they would show me the pictures, and at once demand a comment. My horror would show. For this, this, is not my Israel. Of all my life, these were some of my most difficult days."

Explaining Israel's actions to the British public, Avner added, was less difficult than explaining it to British Jews. Night after night he went to community meetings, finding "bewildered, frightened people who came to balls in their thousands for answers. We would start at eight o'clock, maybe, and I would still be facing them at midnight. Because, often, I had no easy answers. I had been given no instructions from Israel. I could only tell British Jews what I told all Britain. 'I see these things, but I do not understand them. These soldiers who act like this will be caught and punished.' And they have been."

"My greatest happiness is that our community did not split. They should remember we are of one family. When they asked 'what are you hiding' when we banned cameras from some places, I could only answer: 'I do not know the reason. But I know the reason must be good.' "Was he saying my country, right or wrong? "Yes, yes, of course! My country, but not my government. If mistakes have been made, wrongs done, these will be discovered, dealt with."

Avner believes much has been gained in his five years as ambassador. Britain, he feels, now accepts Israeli imperatives that self-determination for the West Bank can never amount to full statehood, and Britain will not have discussions with the PLO at Cabinet level until that organization renounces terrorism and recognizes Israel's existence.

How was this understanding achieved? "Because I speak the language. I do not just mean I am among many who speak English. An Irish diplomat said to me of the Foreign Office recently: 'I hear what they say, but do I know what they mean?' I think that I do understand. The meaning is often in the tone of voice, the look in the eye, the words unsaid. Where I was born and went to school gives me this understanding. And because I speak plainly."

"Last week I was given dinner at the Tory conference. Four Cabinet ministers were present. They said nice things about me. In my reply I said I felt sure that my successor would see the ludicrous and unfair British arms embargo on my country lifted. Some might say I should not speak like this at such a time: but I owe it to Israel. And Mrs Thatcher always understood that."

Avner was not overawed by his last official engagement at Buckingham Palace. "There is something I am determined to say to Her Majesty. To thank Britain for the protection it has given me. Brave men and women have made it possible for me, a religious Jew, to walk to my synagogue every week. I have to thank someone for that."

A racy bird in the hand

What makes a pigeon worth £77,000 — and who is prepared to pay the price?

Smagard is tucked away in his luxurious love nest at a secret hideaway in the Leicestershire countryside. Between him and his public, there is an electronic alarm system and a pack of snarling Rottweilers.

No, Smagard is not the most recent of the one-name pop stars. He is a pigeon. He is, in fact, the world's most expensive pigeon with a price tag of £77,000 around his elegant neck. It is the sort of money that buys you a possible race horse, but... a pigeon?

For years there was no deal in pigeon racing that could not be fixed for small change over a pint, but after languishing in the clog-and-cobbles belt, it is now drawing the big money.

It is mostly interest from the Far East that has set it off. The Japanese and the Taiwanese have taken to the sport with enthusiasm and fat chequebooks. Now the Arabs, who also love gambling, are taking it up too.

It was against that sort of competition that the Massarella family, who run Britain's biggest pigeon stud, decided to go for the best bird in the world.

In July, John Massarella had agents placed all over the Continent waiting to see who won the Barcelona International. That is to pigeon racing what the Derby and the Lord's Test is to lesser sports, and he reckoned that the winner might be a classic.

It was. His man rang to say that Smagard II, to give him his full title, had flown more than 700 miles and beaten more than 21,000 rivals. That started two weeks of on-off dealing that had the Massarella knuckles white with tension, and all the time the agents from Taiwan and Japan were lurking around.

At first the owner, a farmer in a Dutch village, wouldn't even discuss selling. Then he said he wanted to keep the bird. In the meantime, the Massarellas traced the bird's sister, another sure-fire winner, which they bought for £22,000. The farmer changed his mind three more times before finally agreeing to sell Smagard.

Pigeon fanciers in Britain now can win up to £10,000 a year in prize-money. Although that doesn't compare with the £50,000-plus on the Continent, they can also pick up handsome prizes like cars, micro-waves and videos.

Nowhere are the changes more clearly reflected than at the Massarella stud, the Louella Pigeon World, just off the M1 near Loughborough. The main hall looks like an aircraft hanger furnished by Habitat. The 660 pens are arranged in seven 250ft avenues between banks of potted plants. With automated watering, feeding and cleaning, they are more like bed-sitters.

Upstairs, father Louis and sons John, Michael and Mark receive their guests in a room gleaming with mahogany, brass and soft leather chairs. They are an Italian family who came to pigeons via ice-cream and farming. Now they have their greatest triumph, and 43-year-old John is naturally delighted. He had seen Smagard only once: it was enough.

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Massarella and his charge

"There's something about him. He's bright and sharp. He's small, but these long-distance pigeons are like runners, and you don't get great gaudy things winning marathons. He's a bit of a character, too. He has to have his fiftieth every day, some canary seed, and he likes to play-fight with you when you go to the pen, rather like a puppy. A lot of the good ones do that."

Smagard is on show to his fans — behind armour-plated glass — before going into his retreat. After that, no publicity, thanks. You know what these stars are like.

Colin Dunne

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In love with low life

Until a few years ago, the great burden of responsibility which lay on the shoulders of the aristocracy was at least partly relieved by the sure knowledge that, when the time for reflection fell due, there would always be a respectable London publisher only too happy to print an attractively packaged set of memoirs.

These memoirs would invariably employ the family motto as a title — "In Comfort Lies Strength", "In Vino Veritas", "Trespassers Will Be Prosecuted" — and would overflow with recollections of gaiety, frothing forth in breathless excitement, punctuated haphazardly, and then almost exclusively, with exclamation marks.

"Heaven knows why, but I was widely considered the greatest beauty of the day, and it was while fox-trotting with Pinky Haringey dressed in my white tulle costume embroidered with silver and pearls in the ballroom of our beloved Brentast Castle that Winston had declared war on Mr Hitler, a little German, and from that moment on our life became a whirl of social activity as we fox-trotted from one charity ball to another — always under the watchful eye of Fruity Walthamstow!" In the past, a first sentence such as this could guarantee its author the publisher of her choice.



CRAIG BROWN

times with Fruity and Chips and even Bubbles, but never with Ronnie or Reggie."

Only by ghost-writing the autobiography of a low-life figure can an aristocrat now find a publisher. So besotted have publishers become with the seamier side of life that they have commissioned an autobiography from Mr Norman Balon, proprietor of the Coach and Horses pub in Soho, home of Private Eye lunches. Mr Balon describes himself on his pub's matchboxes as "London's Rudest Landlord". Grace, Countess of Islington North, has already penned his opening chapter: "They were the happiest of days, and the Private Eye table positively hummed with wit and joie de vivre, groaning with a handsome repast of cold sausages with tinned baked beans by Heinz, with a choice of warm ice cream or Rothmans cigarettes to follow. 'Call this a pudding, you fat toad,' quipped the adorably amusing Mr Mackay. 'Up yours,' I riposted, 'with knobs on.' Yes, I do believe that we were in love with life!"

Now that British Fashion Week is over, tributes should

be paid to Mr Michael Heseltine who, on the day of his Cabinet resignation, was observed changing into five different neckties for five different television programmes.

Mr Heseltine's dedication to bringing a touch of fashion to the world of television was well rewarded in Brighton last week. Not a minute passed without this dapper gentleman presenting a new tie to the camera, generally under the guise of urging those of his colleagues still in the Cabinet towards some urgent new reform or other.

Somewhere around the middle of last week, Mr Heseltine chose as his urgent call of the day the installation of video cameras in town centres. Soon there will be cameras in Mr Heseltine's place of work, on the look-out, no doubt, for scenes of anti-social behaviour. Ever since Westland, there seems to have been a camera crew on permanent stand-by in Mr Heseltine's drawing room, ever ready to relay his views on inner cities, outer cities, green belts and polka-dot ties to a wider public. During conference time, he can be sure of being filmed hurling arguments and punching home ideas morning, noon and night. But by now he must be aware that his TV profile is doomed to grow smaller as his period of absence from Cabinet grows longer.

Happily, if Mr Hurd installs his cameras in city centres, things will begin to look rosy once more for Mr Heseltine. Within days, the people of Henley will be surprised to spot their local MP making daily visits to the city centre, beaming upwards to the lenses on the rooftops, every now and then hoping for a commercial break so that he can nip behind a pillar box for that vital change of tie.



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You may remember the early hours of 16th October last year.

Gary and Margaret Roady most certainly do.

It was just before dawn when the disaster struck.

Mr Roady thought he was seeing stars.

He was.

A 200 ft tree had crashed straight through the roof, carving their home in half.

The lights went out and the rain poured in.

The Roadys knew it was time to leave.

At 7.45 that same morning the phone rang in Brian Croll's office.

Mr Croll, we should mention, is a claims supervisor with Commercial Union.

In the light of the storms, he had gone into work early and was at his desk when Mr Roady called.

Within the hour our local loss adjuster was battling to the scene. And by 9am the first claims report was being penned from under canvas at the Roady homestead.

That night, with a crowd of 500 well-wishers cheering them on, our hired team of arborists (lumber-jacks by any other name) swung among the branches harnessed to wires, and hitched the tree to their crane, supported by a 50 tonne truck.

The Roadys were left with £50,000 worth of damage to their home and a life time's supply of firewood.

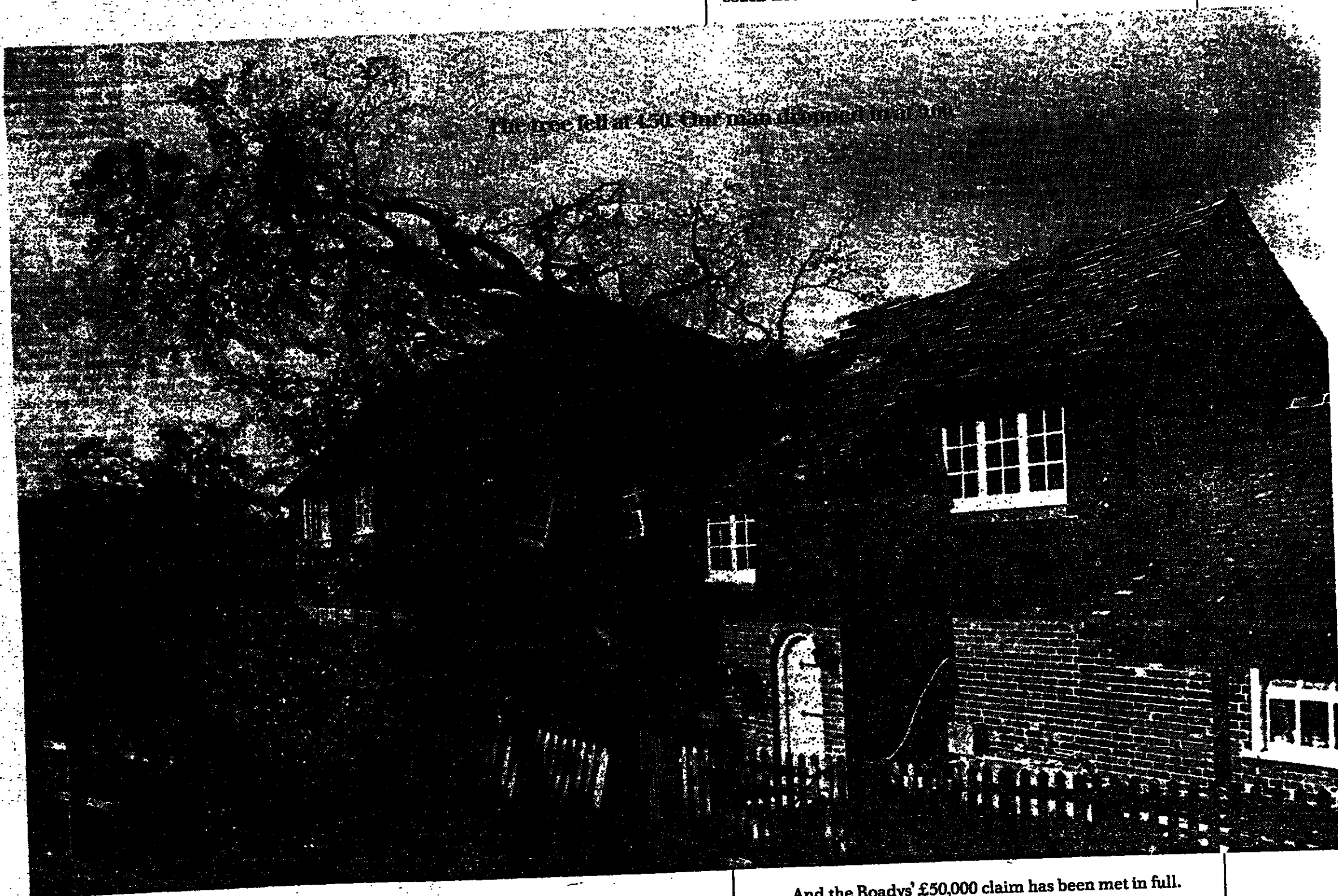
In the months that followed they had no mains electricity. We immediately organised a generator.

They had no kitchen. We paid the extra cost of eating out.

We even offered to put them up in an hotel. But for the Roadys, there was no place like home.

So they stayed put and we paid all the repair bills as and when they came in.

The restoration of their 18th century converted coach-house is now complete.



And the Roadys' £50,000 claim has been met in full. But that's not quite the end of the story. Last week Mr Roady received a further bill for almost £1,000 for roof repairs.

His builder apologised. He was months behind with his invoicing.

Mr Roady called Mr Croll at Commercial Union and explained his dilemma.



Both men agreed that since the claim had been fully settled, a further payment would be out of the ordinary.

"But not out of the question", said Mr Croll, reaching for his pen. **We won't make a drama out of a crisis.**

TIMES DIARY CLEMENT FREUD

St Helier

The BBC TV series *Bergerac* has done much for Jersey, giving the place an image of competent policing among dramatic scenery and attractive women. Is there, I asked, a statue to John Nettles, who plays the lead? It appears that not only is the answer in the negative but when the actor wanted to buy a house on the island he was turned down for having insufficient what-ever-it-is that is required of mainlanders who want to become residents. Serves them right if he gets mugged in the next series and his wife runs off with a Portuguese waiter.

Most of the professional waiters here seem Portuguese, are allowed nine months residence in the year and work all hours that God provides. What has changed significantly since I was last here is that the many boarding houses and small hotels which were replete with honeymoon couples in the 1970s have become offices of financial service companies who find Jersey an attractive tax haven.

I am staying at the Hotel de France, a location that due to the niceness of the staff and the low cost of Channel Isles food and drink is becoming increasingly popular for conferences. My sitting room has an oval table and seven chairs — also a three-piece suite and a desk. In a walk-in cupboard off my bedroom is a wardrobe with 20 hangers and an electric trouser-press which I use to warm up the breakfast toast, though it does squash it dreadfully. The bathroom has five cupboards, a large shower cubicle and a tub with seven gold jacuzzi jets. While, on the tray containing bath-gel, shampoo and soap, there are two nicely wrapped Mates condoms.

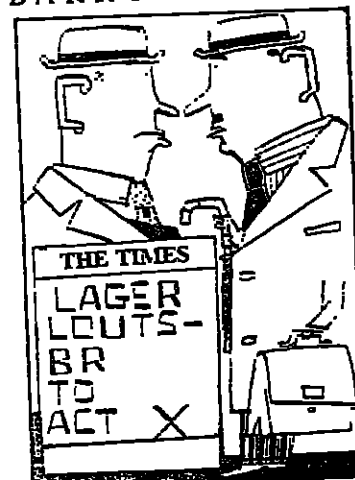
The chief executive of the company which I addressed at dinner on Saturday night told me that in his bathroom he had three condoms. He is not that much younger than I am: I wonder how they decide. Guests who shoveled the bathroom ephemera into their sponge bags might have serious explanation problems when they get home to their wives — but if it catches on, the little woman's accusing look as she discovers 21 condoms among her man's baggage will be answered by, "Well I spent the week in St Helier."

Throughout Europe barmen and bar ladies dispense their wares — and when it is time to leave the customer gets the bill. In Britain we go for cash: "Pint of bitter," "90p." "Here you are." "Thanks." I had a favourite bar in Westminster where you sat comfortably at small tables and they sold good wine and great sandwiches. When the wine was drunk and there was a slice of sandwich left you tended to order a second bottle; occasionally there was wine left and the sandwiches had run out so you ordered another round — and when you decided it was time to go, the man or girl behind the bar totted up what you owed.

I went there on Tuesday and ordered a bottle and two glasses pending the arrival of a friend; there were four other customers in the place. The girl who brought the wine to my table asked for my credit card, or passport, or something which she could retain until I paid my bill. I asked why. She explained that it was in case she was too busy to attend to me when I wanted to leave — this was the new system. I paid cash for the wine and, for a second bottle and inferior smoked salmon sandwiches, we went round the corner to a bar where the convenience of the customer is rated more highly than the bar lady's facility to go and powder her nose without fearing the punters will walk out without paying.

I shall not go to that first establishment again and will not mention its name lest Pimm's-like, it benefits from my denigration. On the subject of Pimm's, I am grateful to the reader who thought sales might have increased because one now needs more Pimm's to get the same strength drink.

BARRY FANTONI



'It's serious. Anstruther was hit on the head with a hammer and was almost concussed'

The average Briton moves house once every seven and a half years. I under-perform: I lived for 28 years in the same house and have been where I am now since 1980. The nice people who bought my first house forward mail (the nice people are also sitting on a 700 per cent profit) and you would think that such a task after nine years would not be onerous. You would think wrong. Week after week they send on letters because, in junk mail, the more antiquated a list of names and addresses the less is the cost thereof and a lot of folk seem to think that it makes commercial sense to invest in cut-price lists that refer predominantly to the quick and the dead.

Last week I received from that old address the Paul McCartney fan magazine, a wine list from a runic German winery urging me to cut out the middle man and deal with him direct and an appeal from the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children asking for £20 to save a child's life. If its next appeal is for £10 to buy an up-to-date mailing list, I shall give that serious consideration.

I received the new London S-Z telephone directory (plot this, too many characters) and out dropped a leaflet from Norwich Union with the catchy headline "Find out how you could receive a cheque for as much as £17,713 in just 10 short years." I read it with care to find out about the shortness of the next 10 years. Nothing.

George Bush brands his opponent "liberal" and America recoils as if from contagion. Surely a victory for the Republican contender will mean four years of anti-liberalism? But it won't. The spending and taxing policies of Michael Dukakis's administration in the state of Massachusetts are a phenomenon for which the American people, despite President Reagan, still show a great partiality. This "liberalism" — active state government programmes based on buoyant state taxes — is alive and well not only in the North-east but in the South, in California, in Illinois and even in Texas.

President Bush, if that is what he becomes, will have to work with a set of state governors, many of them Republican, who have a conception of activist public administration just like Dukakis's. Their programmes and policies have been endorsed more than once at the polls: look away from Washington and Reagan's era of conservatism and limited government begins to appear contradictory.

David Osborne, author of the recent *Laboratories of Democracy*, argues that in the states a new politics is emerging, led as much from the Republican ranks as from the Democrats. Out there are pragmatic governors, fiscally conservative because they are required by law to

balance state budgets, working with legislatures growing in sophistication and capacity.

These new politicians, as emblematic of the United States in the 1980s as President Reagan himself, are united in a conception of government that extols the practical and the local. They see that the US has tremendous problems of international economic competitiveness, while the staples of the old 1960s policy agenda such as racial disadvantage, urban decay and welfare dependency have by no means disappeared. Their remedy is, however, no grand federal scheme — in that respect the 1960s are dead.

In answer to the question, what has the international competitiveness of US business to do with Virginia, the state governor, Jerry Baliles, answers: plenty. The languages, geography and business studies curriculum in Virginia schools now reflects his concern about foreign trade just as the state administration has been putting money, again with an eye on

economic competitiveness, into refurbishing Virginia's highways and bridges.

Baliles is a Democrat. Governor Tom Kean of New Jersey is a Republican, sufficiently acceptable to the party power brokers to have been invited to give the keynote speech at the Republican convention in New Orleans. Yet his record demonstrates the same sense of practical, active government.

John Moore, the Social Security Secretary, is only the latest in a string of foreign visitors to examine New Jersey's "Reach" programme for bringing back into employment people who have depended for years on welfare benefits. The scheme has been taken up by other states and formed the basis for recent legislation in Congress.

In Arkansas, much poorer, the successor of the governor who in 1954 stood in front of a Little Rock school to prevent the entry of black children is every inch a new politician. Governor Bill Clinton has put secondary schooling at the top of his

agenda. But he is no conventional liberal — the financial limits on Arkansas government are too strict for that. And along with a variety of schemes to improve educational attainment, Clinton has imposed strict tests on teachers.

He is an exponent of the idea that poor states, notably in the South, will get nowhere if they try to attract industry by low wages and low taxes. The kind of industries that need that sort of inducement are probably better off in the Third World anyway. What Arkansas has to do, he says, is improve its human capital in order to encourage enterprise at home, and attract high technology: that means education, even higher taxes to pay for teachers' higher salaries.

The examples could be multiplied. The list includes the venture capital funds established by Republican governor Richard Thornburgh of Pennsylvania (now President Reagan's attorney general) and the refurbishment of higher education by Republican governor Lamar

Alexander of Tennessee. Reagan's America has seen, at state level, an outburst of creative law-making: and in this renewal of federalism possibly lies one of Reagan's greatest domestic achievements.

Was it intended? Reagan's detractors often forget that he was the two-term governor of the country's most dynamic state and that before going to Washington he had set out plans for a significant shift of taxing and spending from federal to state levels. By no means all of what he intended has come about, but in speeches and his reform of the grants system he set the scene for the states to move.

Dukakis owes a lot more to the President than he would care to admit, just as the Massachusetts economic miracle owes a debt to that special brand of American Keynesianism known as the Pentagon. Research into and expenditure on high-technology weaponry has boosted New England's prosperity.

Did the President make a mistake? Giving powers to the

states ought to have been a recipe for less, not more, government. The New Right had calculated on the states being slothful, even reactionary.

Yet Reagan's renewal of the compact between state and federal governments has secured authentic conservative aims. Massachusetts may see active, liberal government, but it is a lot closer and possibly a lot more intelligible to the inhabitants of Boston than the workings of Washington bureaucracy.

The President's formula has also fomented diversity within the United States and, some say, ended a movement towards convergence between the states. There is no doubt that allowing the states to carry the bulk of social policy is a recipe for large differences in provision on welfare and education, and for an inequality that conservatives should welcome.

The scale of the budget deficit bequeathed by President Reagan means that neither George Bush nor Michael Dukakis is going to have much scope for federal activism, even if they wanted new programmes. But Americans' willingness to support candidates who promise to use the machinery of government to confront and perhaps even solve problems runs unabated. It seems they will be looking to Trenton and Little Rock rather than to Washington.

David Walker charts government's shift away from Washington

State spending's new deal

Bernard Levin

The Tate's rejected master



and they choose a chairman.) After talking at length to Rogers, to Sir Alan Bowness (the retiring director of the Gallery), and to Nicholas Serota (the incoming director), Burgh said that he was "honoured and excited" by the invitation and was delighted to accept.

Burgh had all along stressed that he was no expert in the fine arts, but what the Tate wanted was a man of wisdom, efficiency, ideas and forcefulness, and although there could be no guarantee that Burgh would ultimately become chairman, Rogers had plainly done his soundings, and there seemed no obstacle. All was now ready for Burgh's name to go to the Prime Minister

with a recommendation that he should be appointed a trustee.

Burgh had also, from the outset, made clear to the Tate that he was something less than a person wholeheartedly grateful with the present government, but this warning was dismissed; since Burgh's name had earlier "emerged" from the Office of Arts and Libraries (better known as the Ministry of the Arts), it was felt that that was enough of an imprimatur.

It wasn't. At the end of June, Burgh and all the trustees learned from the soundings taken within the OAL that the Prime Minister was most unlikely to approve Burgh's appointment as a trustee; these

things are rarely stated plainly, of course, but from the tone of the permanent head of the OAL (Richard Widdow), it was clear that she was prepared to back-bite the Tate's choice. At this point, John Burgh asked my advice as a friend. I said he should ask the Tate to go ahead with a firm submission of his name to the PM, on the ground that a formal execution in daylight was preferable to a furtive murder in the dark.

Unfortunately, more soundings met a hint that if the matter were pursued the PM would ignore any second recommendation and make her own appointment. Imagination stirs as to who it might have been. Peter

Bruinvels perhaps? Sir Alfred Sherman? Mr Geoffrey Dickens? We shall never know, for the threat was considered sufficiently real for my suggested *démarche* to be abandoned. Burgh was not appointed. (The new trustee, Mr Dennis Stevenson, was appointed chairman almost immediately. I have no reason to doubt that he will fill the post successfully.)

I can see why Mrs Thatcher is anxious to see key representative positions filled by men and women who share her vision of the transformation of Britain; indeed, I sympathise with the attitude, for if that vision (which I enthusiastically share) is to be made real, institutions of power and influence throughout the country will have to reflect it.

But the Tate Gallery? And a man of the quality of John Burgh? Are we at the court of Henry VIII? Or of Stalin? Can Mrs Thatcher not see that placemen are bad for her hopes of the country's future, not good? Or that independence of mind, coupled with honesty, is the greatest asset she could have? (She might ask herself how she got where she is.)

Does she really want a society in which the Thought Police keep records of those who have challenged government policy and thereafter bar their way to any appointment in the government's gift? Is this kind of accountability going to be the norm in the future? If so, how does it fit into the Britain of Mrs Thatcher's dreams — a land of self-sufficient, independent people, in charge of their own destiny, freed from the constraints of interfering officials and living under government, national as well as local, with only the most minimal powers over them?

John Burgh would have been a credit to the Tate Gallery as a trustee, and an immensely valuable asset to it as its chairman. In vetoing his appointment for no proper reason, the Prime Minister has made a sad, bad mistake. Much more important, she has been untrue to herself.

Commentary • JACK STRAW

Better read than bled

We have all been too kind to Kenneth Baker. But while his generosity of spirit will continue, whatever sacrifice this means to the advancement of socialism and my career (the two are, after all, inseparable), the press now seems ready to abandon him. The judiciously cautious *Times Educational Supplement* said in a recent editorial about teacher shortages that he was "remarkably bankrupt of ideas", while the *Tory* house journal, the *Spectator*, said he had traded "short-term political advantage for the long-term interests of the education system."

It seems that this lamentable conclusion has also been reached by the Conservative hierarchy. Last Thursday I had pressed my sharpest suit, and polished my cordless telephone, in anticipation of Mr Baker's address to the party conference. The whole of my trip to the Parkside Comprehensive School, Wilmington, Co. Durham, was disrupted as we waited to see if he would explain why the newly announced city technology college in nearby Gateshead was to receive twice as much capital investment from the taxpayer as the £1.4 million Mr Baker has allowed Durham County Council for all of its 450 maintained schools, and what he was going to do about a growing shortage of fully qualified teachers.

But we were disappointed. The speech was empty, a vacuum not even filled with swag, to borrow a phrase. How wise were the party hierarchy to have deliberately decided, so Friday's

newspapers told us, that Mr Baker's speech should be overshadowed by those on foreign affairs, the economy, and health. Mr Baker's problem is that he acts before he thinks. His brass neck gets the better of him — here's a policy, there's an inquiry, forgetting that some time later comes the reckoning.

So it will be with Russian studies. After a week's trip to the Soviet Union, remarkable mainly for the semi-public complaints of his hosts that he was preoccupied with his image back home, Mr Baker announced that there was to be an inquiry into the teaching of Russian.

In one sense, the inquiry is to be welcomed: it shows some response to the alarm bells about Russian studies which many of us have rung; but politically, for Mr Baker, the inquiry is a mistake. For this government's record on Russian — Mr Baker's record — does not bear serious examination. Between 1979 and 1986 12 universities dropped Russian or Russian studies as undergraduate courses; in the same period only three new courses began.

The closures included Russian departments at Reading, Lancaster and East Anglia, reduced student numbers at Essex and Southampton. Now, according to reports earlier in the summer, Russian is to end at Hull, Liverpool and Aberdeen. There was a 20 per cent fall in the number graduating in Russian at university — from 130 in 1979 to 109 in 1984, with similar falls at O and A level (down from 1,756

in 1979 to 1,375 in 1985 and from 396 to 307 respectively). The standard excuse for such falls is to blame the decline in the size of the age group. But on this occasion the excuse does not fit the evidence. For interest in, and demand for Russian studies has grown dramatically, some universities reporting a 50 per cent increase in demand. The Commons foreign affairs select committee published a report in May 1986 on the need to stimulate Russian and East European studies. Ten months later all the then minister for higher education, Mr George Walden, could tell the House was that he was considering "with his colleagues" (i.e. Mr Baker) "whether steps might be taken to improve the position."

Nine months after that, last December, senior industrialists, backed by the Department of Trade and Industry and the Foreign Office, called for an urgent review of Russian and East European studies. Nine months after that, all we have is Mr Baker's promise of action or cash. Both were dodged.

The Foreign Office has reported serious concern not only about the lack of top-class linguists, but also of political and social expertise on Eastern Europe. This illustrates how the closure of Russian departments can have an impact well beyond the study of Russian as a main degree course. Many students, taking courses as diverse as engineering, economics and law, can benefit (and so can the

country) from studying Russian society as a subsidiary. That chance is denied them if no Russian department exists. And, on top of the formal closures of departments, some are now being run down by "natural wastage". Many of the Russian specialists in universities came to the subject during National Service. They are now retiring, and often not replaced.

There is an equally depressing picture for modern languages generally. Professors Hawkins and Lawrence, in an important (and therefore ignored) study published in June, chart a serious decline in the study and teaching of modern languages at a higher level — just as demand itself has increased. A level passes in French are down from the figure 20 years ago, both in absolute terms and relative to other subjects. Worse, in 10 years the numbers entering teacher training to specialise in modern languages has fallen by two thirds — from 2,062 in 1977 to 687 in 1987. *Glossnet* and 1992 are supposed to be an opportunity for Britain to get closer to Europe, East and West. Government policy denies the means by which that can be achieved.

Still, Mr Baker achieved one thing on his trip which will please the Russians: he visited more state schools in Moscow than he has ever done in inner London. Such are the strange priorities of the modern Tory party.

The author, MP for Blackburn, is Labour spokesman on education.

OCT 17

ON THIS DAY

1908

Samuel Franklin Cody was a Texan who spent his early years in the prairies — leading to subsequent confusion with the other Cody, Buffalo Bill. He settled in England, where he became a popular pioneer of aviation, and was killed while flying — also from Farnborough — in August, 1913.

ACCIDENT IN FARNBOROUGH

The Army aeroplane fell to the ground from a height of 40ft and broke the right wing during a trial flight at Farnborough yesterday morning. Mr Cody, who was sitting in the steering seat at the time, fell with the machine, but was not hurt.

Mr Cody was accompanied yesterday by his two sons and a squad of Royal Engineers. For some minutes he contented himself with a repetition of earlier manoeuvres, driving the aeroplane across the grassy square and around the plantation at a speed of about 15 miles an hour. Shaping a course that led to Cove Common, Mr Cody kept the aeroplane about 30ft from the ground, and he travelled across the greensward for a quarter of a mile. Then he was confronted by a group of birch trees 30ft high. The aeroplane cleared these with ease. Beyond them, however, lay a stretch of country dotted with gorse and woodland. Mr Cody evidently had no mind to face these obstacles, for the aeroplane was suddenly wheeled round on its left wing at an acute angle.

This evolution was fatal to further progress, for the left wing dipped, the aeroplane itself lowered, and the small cycle wheel on

the left extremity of the cross spar struck the ground with such force that the timber snapped. Deprived of its counter-balance, the right wing swung round as if on a pivot, and then that too struck the earth, and the whole fabric toppled forward to the ground.

Mr Cody said that he felt that the aeroplane was in flying order after it had lifted from the ground while mounting a hill, and therefore he was not surprised when it soared from the brow of the hill to the level of the trees tops. However, it was not until he was driven to his steering wheel that his difficulty began. His canvas steering planes are connected with a base wheel, which on the ground acts as a rudder and is only moved by the application of considerable force. But in the air, with the surface friction removed, the rudder moved much more easily.

Scarcely realising this, he applied the usual pressure, with the result that the aeroplane wheeled rapidly round and dipped considerably in so doing. Before Mr Cody could use the mechanical contrivance by which the balance is adjusted, the left wing had struck the earth and had brought about the collapse of the entire structure.

"I am sorry," he said, "that the accident occurred, but I have accomplished what I aimed at; I have constructed a machine which can fly and which, but for the mishap, would have carried three men when the new propellers were fixed. The propellers that I used today were much too small and necessitated my running the machine at its fullest power. With the new propellers, which are now in course of construction, I shall not need to run at top speed, and I shall always have reserve power at my command."



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DEMOCRATS' DILEMMA

In spite of media coverage and opinion polling which together magnify every blip and jitter of a long campaign, a clear pattern is emerging in the battle for the White House. In just over three weeks from now, the United States will elect a new president and all the indications point to a President Bush.

The gradual disillusion suffered by the Democrats and their candidate Governor Michael Dukakis has some marked similarities to the British general election of 1987. In both campaigns, the opposition revived after successive defeats at the hands of radical conservatism with fresh impetus delivered by a newly-united party and a marketable leader. Mr Kinnoch and the Labour Party confused their — quite correct — judgement that they were running a superior media campaign with the idea that they were in with a chance against the government. Similarly, the Democrats, dazzled by the initially warm reception for Governor Dukakis and encouraged by Vice President Bush's poor performance in the early summer may have allowed themselves to underestimate the scale of their problems.

They are formidable. The demographic shifts of the last two decades largely favour the Republicans. Depending on the exact calculation, a Republican presidential candidate now sets out with a solid base of between 150 and 200 votes in the electoral college (270 are required for victory). The Democratic "base" of consistently loyal states, once located in the south, no longer exists.

As in recent presidential contests, the issues which most concern American voters are basic and domestic economic ones. Early in the campaign this looked unpromising for Mr Bush since relative economic security often prompts electorates towards betting on a change. But this perception neglected the sense of economic vulnerability in the middle class and among women in particular. The Bush campaign has made up ground on this and closed the "gender gap" which had registered his support as weaker among women than among men. Mr Dukakis is in an unenviable bind on the economy, running as he is on the uninspiring theme of "competence". Like Vice President Bush he makes relatively little reference to the budget deficit, the dominant issue for the next president. For harping on the deficit will raise fears of higher taxation — universally regarded as a thoroughly dangerous idea to both candidates. The deficit has thus been buried as an issue by mutual consent, but to the net advantage of Vice President Bush.

None of this means that a Republican victory is a foregone conclusion or that the candidate and campaign make no difference. The televised "debate" at the end of last week witnessed the recovery of Vice President Bush's campaigning nerve. He has eliminated his tendency to sound idiotic and has emerged

more clearly different from President Reagan, not least by admitting that life is not perfect for everybody. He has offset the electorate's professed desire for change by stressing that very theme. President Reagan expressed it for him at the Republican convention: "We are the change."

And Vice President Bush has helped eliminate his image as a weak-minded elitist by tenaciously attaching the liberal "liberal" tag on his rival. Polls find that around 80 per cent of Americans describe themselves as either "moderate" or "conservative" and a mere 15 per cent as "liberal". In this climate even Mr Dukakis, running as the advocate of tough choices and hard-headed managerialism, leaning to the centre of foreign and defence issues and with a running mate who is neo-conservative in economic outlook cannot escape without penalty.

His dilemma encapsulates a more general problem for the Democrats during the Reagan years. The relatively liberal philosophies of Democratic activists and the registered voters who dominate the primaries push candidates leftwards before the nomination. To capture the electorate at large, they must then reverse direction and head for the centre. In Dukakis's case this change has been so pronounced that it cast doubt on both his much-famed competence and sincerity. Mr Kinnoch can presently be seen experiencing the same sort of trouble.

In no case is Governor Dukakis's manoeuvring more bizarre or less sincere than on protectionism. During the primaries, running against the frankly protectionist Congressman Richard Gephardt, Governor Dukakis told American managers and workers that the way to turn round adverse trade balances was to make better American goods and sell them harder. Senator Bentsen, his running mate, has supported the dismantling of legal barriers to foreign investment in the United States. These attitudes are excellent credentials in the eyes of America's allies and trading partners for dealing with any rising tide of what is euphemistically known as "economic nationalism". Now both men are cynically repackaging themselves as xenophobic populists. This stance is no doubt calculated to appeal to latent racial hostility against the Japanese and other Pacific nations. But it is straightforwardly anti-British in the bargain. Nearly 30 per cent of direct foreign investment in the US last year was British.

Governor Dukakis has so far been vague about how he intends to "use the full powers of the presidency to restore America's pre-eminence" but his current speeches sound like a declaration of intent to start a trade war. They also sound like the words of a desperate candidate denying everything he has learnt about the world and the way it works.

CONTROL OF STRATEGIC EXPORTS

When the West German chancellor, Helmut Kohl, flies to Moscow this week he will be accompanied by 500 German businessmen out to capitalize on the Soviet Union's drive to modernize its economy. There are limits to what they can offer however. These limits are set by a 15-nation committee which has no official status, operating out of modest offices in the American embassy in Paris. Dominated by the United States, it includes Japan and all Nato governments except Iceland.

The Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls, known as Cocom, has never been popular with exporters. Established in 1949, its job is to draw up lists of strategically sensitive technology which its members agree not to export to the Soviet bloc or to other countries deemed hostile to Western interests. This includes civilian technology adaptable to military uses.

The committee's importance to the US has increased with the Strategic Defence Initiative ("Star Wars") programme, which employs technologies in which the Soviet Union is particularly deficient. But, as Robert Fisk described in his series of articles in *The Times* last week, its methods and very existence are being challenged, notably by the West Germans but also by other allies of the US.

Cocom's defenders argue that the embargo system delays the Soviet Union's acquisition of technologies which are vital to its defence programme. Clear evidence that the Soviet leadership attaches the highest priority to persuading western governments to scrap the Cocom list, coupled with intelligence on the vast machine operated by the KGB to obtain embargoed goods or the blueprints for them, support their claims.

Opponents maintain that it is impossible to draw the line sensibly, as Khrushchev once said, even buttons can be used to hold up Soviet soldiers' trousers. West German industrialists claim that the US is using Cocom as a

commercial tool in strategic disguise in order to cut European businessmen out of the lucrative Soviet market. In addition the US doctrine of extra-territoriality, which applies US export controls to overseas subsidiaries and to foreign companies using US technology, is bitterly opposed by all its allies, including Britain, and makes the Cocom embargo list a permanent bone of inter-allied contention. Echoes from the Anglo-American confrontation in 1983 over US enforcement of its embargo on a British company exporting pipeline equipment to the Soviet Union still linger in Whitehall.

A dispassionate assessment of Cocom will be vital in the run-up to 1992. The abolition of customs barriers in the European Community will make the embargo list impossible to operate without the full support of all Cocom members. The European Commission maintains that from that date the Community should be treated as a single destination for all US technology exports, and that arguments about re-exports should be addressed to Brussels. The US fears, with reason, that this would make sanctions against rogue exporters inoperable. A community-wide law would prove difficult to enforce, and might well be weakened to accommodate West German desires to trade more freely with the East.

Cocom's members have yet to meet to discuss this question. When they do, Britain should argue for further rationalization of the Cocom list, to concentrate on state-of-the-art technology. At the same time, its genuine strategic utility should not be forgotten in the scramble for political and economic deals with the Soviet Union and its allies. There is a strong case for maintaining national strategic barriers to sensitive exports after 1992. Britain's justifiable indignation over the long arm of US trade law should not inhibit it from putting that case, in the strategic interests of the West.

EDUCATING CITIZENS

Every now and then, politicians, even the most experienced, get hooked on a new phrase. The one that seems to have dominated the Conservative Party Conference this year is active citizenship. And why not? It is a modern phrase which encapsulates an old idea: that those who lead comfortable and full lives can lead by example and by individual action help those who are less well off through no fault of their own. Good neighbours can look after each other, without depending on expensive and often ill-targeted state aid.

It is an idea that should be encouraged. The more individuals behave decently the better for society as a whole. At its best civilised behaviour means that old people are not mugged, that public places are not scarred with graffiti, that people can walk about freely, that there is no such thing as a no-go area. The Government is right to insist that schools should encourage children to be responsible citizens. It is right too that parents should be made responsible for their children's actions, but many parents are unable to meet those responsibilities. The classroom teacher must take their place.

The difficulty comes not in promoting active citizenship. There is plenty of evidence that some schools are doing just that. In Blackpool, a group of young people discovered that meals on wheels were not distributed at weekends, raised the money, cooked the meals and then delivered them. In Salford, schools working on craft design visited physically handicapped people in their homes and designed gadgets to switch on electric appliances, slice bread and pour kettles.

While such community activities should be encouraged as an integral part of the life of any school, it would be undesirable if they were to be treated as yet another subject in the General Certificate of Secondary Education, with pupils graded from A to G as responsible and caring persons. Alongside the government campaign, a commission set up by Mr Bernard Weatherill, the Speaker of the House Commons, is now investigating ways in which young people can be trained to help the community and recognised for the work they do. Even before arriving at his conclusions, he is under pressure to introduce a GCSE in "active citizenship". He should resist it.

Unease at British television future

From the Chairman, European Institute for the Media and others
Sir, The future of European television hangs in the balance. The arrival of direct broadcast satellite services produced by multinational companies and aimed at the European mass market is changing the established place of television in society and the role of the public-service broadcasters. Self-contained national regulatory systems are no longer adequate. A new European consensus is needed to complement them.

We write to express our concern about the future of those broadcasting institutions in Britain which are widely regarded in Europe as models for the future. We understand that the BBC may be asked to revert to its role as the sole provider of public-service television. This is bound, in the progressively more competitive environment, to lead to its marginalisation.

It also appears that the independent television companies may lose their public-service roles; that Channel Four may be privatised; and that the Independent Broadcasting Authority may be abolished. The new Broadcasting Standards Council's role is apparently restricted to the prevention of violence and pornography.

It is not the institute's practice to comment on the internal affairs of any one country. We consider it important, however, to draw your attention to the European significance of developments in the United Kingdom. In their search for ways of relating private enterprise and public accountability in television many European countries look to Britain as the pioneer in the design and operation of a system capable of ensuring high standards of quality.

In its recent report, *Europe 2000: What Kind of Television?* the task force established by the institute and the European Cultural Foundation identified the need for a European framework to complement national systems. The prime considerations in the search for a suitable framework are the need to maintain the independence of broadcasting from state intervention and to create an environment in which both public and private broadcasters can find breathing space for their development (p.120).

If the British structures which have led the way in creating such conditions were to be cut down at the very time when the need for them is recognised across Europe, the effect would be devastating.

We are sure that we reflect the views of many people across Europe in expressing the hope that the British Government will not allow the United Kingdom's television system, which has so much to teach the rest of Europe, to be dismantled in response to short-sighted sectoral pressures.

Yours faithfully,
PIERRE DESGRAUPES
(Chairman),
KARL-GÜNTHER von HASSE
(Immediate past-Chairman),
F. BALEMAO,
R. WANGERMÉE
(Vice-Chairmen),
European Institute for the Media,
The University, Manchester,
Crompton Street, Manchester 13,
October 14.

Orchids and scent

From Mr E. F. Allen
Sir, Simon Tait (*Spectrum*, October 10) makes the astonishing statement that orchids rarely have a scent. I think otherwise.

In the swamp forests of Lower Perak, West Malaysia, I have detected the scent of *Phaiacopsis violacea* from a distance of one chain (66ft) and a Malay friend once claimed that he could smell it from two chains away.

In the villages of the same country the well-known Pigeon Orchid has the sweetest of perfumes, which is so pervasive that one notices it when driving a car near by.

Similarly the very beautiful *Aerides odoratum*, found commonly on *Sarcoca* trees in stream valleys in the foothills of the main range, has the sweetest of scents and it is easy to cultivate when tied to branches of garden trees.

As I write a hybrid *Zygopetalum* in my glasshouse is wonderfully scented and near by grows a *Dendrobium* from New South Wales which will be covered with white-scented flowers next March.

Doubtless gardeners from many tropical countries could cite similar examples.

Yours faithfully,
E. F. ALLEN,
Felfort, Copdock, Suffolk,
October 12.

Driving tests

From Mr W. K. McMorran
Sir, I have seen Mr Hurst's letter (October 6) about his daughter's driving test. I understand the test was conducted at Coleraine, Northern Ireland.

It was the practice at one time for examiners to accuse candidates the reasons for their failure; but it led to considerable acrimony. Candidates are not necessarily receptive to an objective appraisal of their performance immediately after failing, and it can be difficult to keep discussions within reasonable bounds.

They are therefore provided with a written statement which itemises fairly comprehensively

Looking for business in Europe

From Mr Phillip Oppenheim, MP for Amber Valley (Conservative)
Sir, In your letter, "Dangerous walls" (October 12), you mentioned the concern of non-EEC countries that overall Community import quotas will replace existing national ones in 1992.

Sadly, that is already the case, and has been in many areas for some time. Already European consumers pay over the odds for TV sets, video recorders, steel, and many other goods. In addition, by the means of farcical "anti-dumping" imposts, the EEC has also managed to push up the price of photocopiers, computer printers, electronic typewriters, fax machines, and many other items of office equipment.

All this is to protect Europe's inefficient industry. Such measures not only add to costs elsewhere in the economy; they also compound the inefficiencies and put off the day when Europe's industries will have to sort out their deficiencies.

Yours faithfully,
PHILLIP OPPENHEIM,
House of Commons,
October 14.

From Mr Dennis Ward
Sir, In response to Mr Lacey's letter (October 10) on the difficulties of buying British, and the withdrawal by manufacturers from production of, in his example, quality British drawing instruments, perhaps I may explain the reasons for this state of affairs.

In the immediate post-war years I was one of effectively two makers of high-quality British drawing instruments and was the main contractor to the Armed Forces, who called for a very high specification, as well as supplying civilian needs, mainly through the wholesale trade. This meant that some dozen wholesalers were supplying my products to the retailer, and each, after opening an account, could lose it to any other wholesaler supplying my manufacturers. They therefore, in order to obtain exclusivity, one by one took up pre-war sole agencies for generally inferior foreign manufacturers.

I was then obliged to sell directly to the retailer, who was generally quite indiscriminate in his buying. It was a question of which of the dozen suppliers was on his doorstep when he ran out of stock, and the cost of selling to retailers, of whom there might be only one in even a substantial town, became uneconomic.

I therefore turned to the manufacture of pneumatic-control equipment. While I could sell in the UK and in such diverse markets as New Zealand, Turkey, and Cuba, it was quite impossible to sell to the EEC countries, which supported their own higher-priced products.

A few years ago I sold out to a French multinational with factories and sales organisations in all the EEC countries, and my previously unsaleable products, still made in the UK, are now selling strongly under foreign brand names in France, Germany, and the other EEC countries.

Levin caught on hop?

From Mrs Eileen Craine
Sir, As a music-lover who later also learnt to respect the great artists of the ballet, I feel sorry that Mr Levin (October 10) is so sweeping in his dismissal of dance, even when the Ashton ballets are performed.

I have not seen any obituary of Sir Frederick which referred specifically to his great understanding of music. The work of other choreographers, particularly of earlier times, which allows a dancer to continue twirling across the stage when the musical phrase has ceased is often exasperating; not so with Ashton.

Please allow one admirer to say that my comprehension of abstract music was greatly enhanced by Ashton's work. As he once said in an interview, "if only they (choreographers) would listen to the music".

Personally, I would have been glad and enlightened to have seen what Ashton made of the Schubert Quintet, or *Heilige Dankesang*, or indeed anything else his intuitive grasp of music could have translated into dance.

Yours faithfully,
EILEEN CRAINE,
59A Crawford Street, W1,
October 10.

From Mr Simon Townley
Sir, As usual Bernard Levin is entertaining, but something of a sophist. In attacking ballet he has undoubtedly chosen a sitting target, but the selectiveness of his examples has moved him unsportingly close to it. In choosing the *Enigma Variations*, he immediately backs up his claim that "the

general features of the test, and how they went wrong. If they (or their instructor) need more information, a fuller report can be obtained by writing to the Chief Examiner at Balmoral Road, Belfast (for tests in Northern Ireland) or the Traffic Area Office (for tests in Great Britain).

I am sorry Mr Hurst considers the test to be inadequate. It has a high reputation internationally and is one of the longest practical tests in the world. As it is conducted in urban traffic conditions where most accidents happen, its standard is self-adjusting in line with the increasing volume and complexity of traffic.

But it can only show whether candidates are capable of driving safely and with consideration for others. Whether they continue to do so will depend on the individual's personality, motivation, and sense of public responsibility.

Yours faithfully,
W. K. MCMORRAN,
Chief Driving Examiner,
Department of the Environment
for Northern Ireland,
Vehicle Inspection and Driving
Test Branch,
Balmoral Road, Belfast 12,
October 11.

Since the UK buyer is conditioned to favour foreign manufacturers, I see little hope of penetration into the nationalistic EEC by those British manufacturers not large enough to set up shop on the Continent with foreign participation, and who will therefore either be swallowed up or will withdraw from the unequal struggle.

Only by the traders and the public adopting a conscious policy of "buying British" whilst it is still available and competitive can the situation be reversed.

Yours faithfully,
DENNIS WARD,
92 Compton Road West,
Wolverhampton, West Midlands,
October 15.

From Professor Robin Marris
Sir, I should like to support the letter from Dr M. Panik, of Cambridge (October 3). In a nutshell, he is saying that it is counter-productive to try to create a single European market before creating effective European institutions for "macro-economic management."

In addition to the reasons given by Dr Panik, there is an urgent need for better protection of the European economy against the chronic mismanagement of the US economy. Because the EC governments do not act together in matters of fiscal and monetary management, while the US economy, however managed, is unified, the prevailing wind for adverse fall-out is currently always westerly.

There is a conventional fallacy that in the course of the trauma of the past 15 years the West European economy has performed badly in comparison with the US. At best that is a half truth. Since 1973 the total growth rates of the US and "OECD Europe" have been much the same — about 2½ per cent a year. But European output per employee has far outperformed the US — growing at about 2 per cent a year, compared with US 0.5 per cent a year.

What happened to total employment on the two sides of the Atlantic was the reverse side of the same coin: by arithmetic necessity European employment lagged behind the US by the same amount that productivity went ahead. Precisely on account of their macro-economic disunity, European governments have had to restrict total real demand more severely, and for longer, than the US Government, resulting in slow growth and more persistent unemployment.

Every opinion has a function. I suspect that the function of proclaiming a belief in "Euro-sclerosis" is to divert attention from the overwhelming economic arguments for federalism. Mrs Thatcher may well be right in claiming important fellow-travellers across the Channel. If so, both she and they should ask themselves in whose interests they are acting — their own, or those of the people they represent?

Yours etc,
ROBIN MARRIS,
Lingard House, Chiswick Mall, W4.

greater the existing music used for the ballet, the less ballet contributes to the effect."

The reason is simple: Elgar never knew he was writing a ballet. Imagine the mess Michaelangelo would have made of *The Last Judgement* if no one had told him it was supposed to be on a wall. But if Mr Levin had been forced to consider *The Rite of Spring* he would have to have had a stronger argument. Stravinsky composed his masterpiece to be danced, and it is in that context that we must judge his "immortal score."

Neither is Mr Levin's quibble about "leading conductors" very helpful. The world premiere of *The Rite of Spring* was conducted by Pierre Monteux.

Yours,
SIMON TOWNLEY,
11 Park Avenue, NW10,
October 11.

From Mr R. D. Douglas
Sir, I share Bernard Levin's sentiments about ballet, but I suggest that his strictures concerning the quality and depth of music composed for it need to be heavily qualified.

Would he not accept that a significant number of 20th-century ballet scores — for example, *Daphnis and Chloe*, *Jeux*, *The Rite of Spring*, *The Three-Cornered Hat*, and *The Miraculous Mandarin* — are justly acclaimed as being of high musical quality and have found secure places in the repertoires of leading conductors?

Yours faithfully,
R. D. DOUGLAS,
23 Montpellier Terrace,
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire,
October 11.

Cultural lag has its seamy side!

Yours,
PETER J. M. McEWAN, Editor,
Social Science & Medicine,
Glengarden, Ballater,
Aberdeenshire,
October 8.

That is the question

From Mr Keith Elliot
Sir, If I leave my newspaper, which I have finished reading, on the seat of a train for others to enjoy, am I being charitable or a timer lout?

Yours faithfully,
K. ELLIOTT,
40-46 Cromwell Road,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey,
October 12.

No foot faults on country paths

From Mr A. J. I. Jennings
Sir, May I add a different view to your recent correspondence on ploughed-up footpaths.

We, in Radlett, have a healthy local society, whose voluntary workers have way-marked all the paths in the parish, each with its definitive number, and have established cooperative contact with the farmers.

Each farmer was approached and asked for his permission to put up these marks so that there would be no excuse for trespass. In some cases, where the path crosses a field, we have marked a "permissive" alternative round the edges.

This has gradually built up such good will and mutual interest that farmers are now repairing their stiles and gates and removing any obstructions as soon as we mention them — often with an apology.

Eight of us volunteers reckon we have clocked up nearly 400 enjoyable man-hours this season. We seem to have achieved the right balance between walkers, farmers, and council, and commend this kind of solution to those of your correspondents who lay the sole blame on the farmers.

Yours faithfully,
A. J. I. JENNINGS,
60 Watford Road,
Radlett, Hertfordshire,
October 15.

Sacrifice to tunnel

From Mrs Helen Whitaker
Sir, I was deeply saddened by the news and picture (early editions, September 27) of the little village of Newington, Kent, which is to be sacrificed to the Channel tunnel. I have known the village since childhood. My father's family have lived in the area for generations; the churchyard holds not only my own baby's remains, but also that of my father and many of his ancestors.

During the last war I well remember sitting in a cinema in Chislehurst (it was a brief pause from the trauma of the assault of El Alamein). During an interval there was flashed on the screen a lovely picture of Newington village, the church tower soaring from a sea of cherry blossom. The Service people in the audience whistled and cheered. With tears streaming down many faces, we knew quite clearly just what we were fighting for.

I used to doubt sometimes, as the wounded came into the hospital where I worked, I listened to their stories of the battles, saw the fear on their faces, felt my own fear, too, for those I loved.

That vision of Newington church and the cosy village put it into focus, representing all that was worth fighting for. However, we were young and naive and it seems that we were wrong. So many gave so much for their vision of hope for the future.

It seems to me a betrayal of their sacrifice to tear down and destroy so much of our beautiful and historic country, burying it under a mass of concrete, where nothing lives or grows.

Yours sincerely,
HELEN WHITAKER,
23 Charlton Lodge,
Temple Fortune Lane, NW11,
October 14.

A check on dons

From Professor P. J. M. McEwan
Sir, Plans to assess academic performance by the computerized checking of citations (report, October 7) are pernicious on two crucial counts.

1. They embody the characteristic American fallacy of believing that quality can be quantified. One seminal work is worth incalculably more than a hundred run-of-the-mill publications — and if the author happens to be an inspiring teacher we have a treasure beyond measure.

2. The encouragement of academic publication reduces standards and confounds the expansion of knowledge. It reduces standards because it adds to the alarming proliferation of learned journals, ever more specialised, spreading in the Western world at the rate of more than one per day. Publication becomes easier as standards of acceptance diminish.

It confounds the expansion of knowledge because it makes selectivity more impossibly difficult, both for librarians who have limited budgets and for academics and students who have limited time.

Harvard University prides itself as being pre-eminent in the American pursuit of excellence. During my teaching there a decade ago it had come to be recognised that departmental and individual achievement was best assessed individually and substantively rather than quantitatively against an arbitrary yardstick of printed public appearance.

Cultural lag has its seamy side! Yours,
PETER J. M. McEWAN, Editor,
Social Science & Medicine,
Glengarden, Ballater,
Aberdeenshire,
October 8.

That is the question

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Yours faithfully,
K. ELLIOTT,
40-46 Cromwell Road,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey,
October 12.



COURT AND SOCIAL

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
October 15: The Duke of Edinburgh, attended by Brigadier Clive Robertson, arrived at Heathrow Airport, London this evening in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight from France.

Today is the Anniversary of the Birthday of the Duchess of York.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 16: This evening The Princess of Wales, President, Royal Academy of Music, attended a concert given by the

students of St John's, Smith Square, SW1.
Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith and Lieutenant-Commander Patrick Johnson, RN, were in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 16: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, President, Women's Royal Voluntary Service East Midlands Region, was present this afternoon at a Service in Coventry Cathedral to mark the Golden Jubilee of WRVS.

Her Royal Highness, attended by Dame Jean Maxwell-Scott, travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight.

Birthdays today

Mr Louis Benjamin, theatrical impresario, 66; Mr Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich, pianist, 48; Mr George Mackay Brown, author, 67; Mr Harry Carpenter, sports commentator, 63; Mr Alexander Cooke, physician, 89; the Earl of Dalhousie, 74; Sir Denis Dobson, QC, former Permanent Secretary to the Lord Chancellor, 80; Mr Alan Garner, author, 54; Lord Justice Ralph Gibson, 66; Mr Christopher Harding, chairman, British Nuclear Fuels, 49; Mrs Ann Jones, tennis player, 50; Lord Kilbracken, 68; Sir Harry Livermore, solicitor, 80; Sir Robert Macintosh, anaesthetist, 91; Mr Arthur Miller, playwright, 73; Mr Rodrigo Moylan, painter, 78; Mr Donald Stewart, former MP, 68; Mr B.D. Taylor, chief executive, Glaxo Holdings, 53; Mr G.H. Turnbull, chairman, Inchcape, 62.

Service dinners

Royal Cruising Club
The Commodore of the Royal Cruising Club held the Northern Ireland dinner in the Officers' Mess, 5th (County London) Battalion, The Ulster Defence Regiment, on Saturday, October 15.

183 Infantry Brigade (61st Infantry Division)
Brigadier Sir Alexander Stanier presided at the reunion dinner of Officers of the 183 Infantry Brigade (61st Infantry Division) held on Saturday at the Union and County Club, Worcester.

RAOC (TA)
Colonel D. S. Hall, Colonel, Royal Army Ordnance Corps (TA), was the host at a regimental dinner given by officers of the RAOC (TA) Specialist Units at Deepcut on Saturday. Major G. H. Stafford presided.

People and Places

Mr Roger Hammond and Miss Rosalind Ayres will give a performance of "Dear Lady Holland" from the People and Places series at Leighton House Art Gallery on Wednesday, October 26, at 7.00. Action Research for the Crippled Child. Further information may be obtained from Mrs Iris Banham-Lee, Director, People and Places, Deane House, Mere, Wiltshire, BA12 6HA.

Appointments

Mr Brian Goodman to be a part-time member of the British Waterways Board.

A memorial service for Mr Brian Roberts, former Editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, will be held tomorrow at St Bride's, Fleet Street, at noon.

A memorial service will be held for Mr Michael Felix James Goodwin at St Marylebone Parish Church, Marylebone Road, London, NW1, at 2pm, on Tuesday, November 1, 1982.

A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Professor Philip Ouston will be held in the Chapel of King's College London, Strand, on Tuesday, November 1, at 5.30pm.

BALDNESS BREAKTHROUGH

Please send me details on new treatment for baldness. See page 12

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THE ARTS

TELEVISION

Of faith in faces

Television moves in a mysterious way. Many Christians were no doubt intrigued to listen to the brief, smilingly hesitant, but thoughtful English words of the Pope, in his interview with Richard Dorton for *Everyman* (BBC1). John Paul II looks very good on camera. His strong, if gentle, face gives him a manly spirituality. His English, though not infallible, gains from the strength of his conviction but more from the immediacy of his charm. Though one is more moved by divine scripture than B-movie scripts, it does seem appropriate that two of the most powerful men in our media-obsessed world are former actors.

But if, increasingly, we are convinced only by those who are good on television, the medium itself has become technically so convoluted that sometimes it undermines those with natural screen "presence". There was no doubt that *Everyman's* scoop was outshone by the reshooting of John Freeman's 1959 interview with Carl Jung in *Face to Face* (BBC2). More of the Pope's interview will come in the next two *Everyman* programmes about him. But the impact of this exclusive close encounter was diminished by cutting it into a television biography which confusingly and irritatingly switched back and forth between the Pope's past and an account of the in-fighting of the last two papal elections. Woven in were dreamy, misty, blue-filter shots of Poland.

Face to Face contained just a great interview and a great man unmissably photographed. Jung looked so archetypically the old German professor that for a moment I thought Olivier had done another of his disappearing acts into the collective unconscious of stage Teutonic elders, but the moment Jung spoke there was no doubting that he was the real thing: a charming, humorous intellectual giant.

Andrew Hislop

Simon Banner meets US actor Tom Hanks, whose success with the film comedy *Big* has moved him into the front rank

Switchback to stardom

Hollywood's favourite "ism" is plagiarism; and the major studios do have a curious habit of producing numerous movies which are remarkably similar one to another in terms of theme and story line. Whether it is plagiarism or not, it can leave ordinary film-goers with a definite sense of déjà vu.

Some while back, so-called "country movies" were all the rage. Within a few months the barnyard had been abandoned in favour of the Vietnam jungles. Then, four or five films full of guns and gooks later, war gave way to babies and parenthood.

Hollywood's latest craze is for what have been dubbed "role-reversal comedies": films in which, through some supernatural trick, children suddenly find themselves in adults' bodies, or vice versa. *Vice Versa* was actually the title of one of the movies. Others were *18 Again* and *Like Father Like Son*.

As it turns out though, it is what will probably be the last of the role-reversal films which has proved to be the most successful example of the genre (\$100 million at the American box-office and still counting), and which is by far the best as well. *Big* opens in London on Friday October 21.

Its curly-haired, tanned, and charming star, Tom Hanks, attributes the film's effectiveness to an "undeniably sure-footed script." Compared to the other kids-in-adult-bodies movies," he says, "and, incidentally, *Big* was the first to be written though the last to be made, this one's very clean. It's just one 12-year-old boy waking up one morning and discovering he's been transformed into a 30-year-old man. The other movies had more than one person

involved and all you seemed to notice about them was the contrivance of the body-swap."

For all the strengths, however, of a script which is said to have attracted the interest of, among others, Robert De Niro, the real secret of *Big's* success is Hanks's remarkably natural, sustained and sensitive performance as the child trapped in a grown-up's body. The other role-reversal movies featured actors doing what amounted to bug-eyed Jerry Lewis impersonations, whereas Hanks in *Big* manages to appear genuinely child-like and convincingly non-plussed by the demands of forced adulthood.

It is the performance Hollywood has been waiting for him to give and looks, once and for all, to have promoted him into major league stardom. His first starring role, in the young-man-meets-mermaid comedy *Splash*, in 1982, undoubtedly established Hanks as something of a sex symbol (despite his assertions that he has got "bad skin" and that his hair "sometimes looks as if a squirrel has slept in it"), and did lead to a succession of other roles too. But none of the films that followed *Splash*—among them *The Money Pit*, *Nothing in Common* and, most recently of all, *Dragon*—was particularly well-received, nor did any of them draw the crowds as his first hit had.

Since *Big*, Hanks's agent receives 20 scripts a day for his client's consideration (Hanks himself reads about three a week) and is said to have raised his asking price to more than \$3 million a picture. Meanwhile, a grinning Hanks takes the oft-repeated comparisons with the leading men of other eras, be it Cary Grant, Bob Hope, or James Stewart, with a large and healthy pinch

of salt. "What about Jack Lemmon?" he asks, "You forgot Jack Lemmon. They usually throw him in for good measure."

Hanks, who has just turned 31, grew up in the Bay Area of California. His parents divorced when he was five and they both remarried a number of times. "By my 10th birthday I'd had three mothers, four fathers, five schools and about 10 different homes," he says with a hollow laugh. "It wasn't a bed of roses, but I think it sort of made me independent. I still travel light, if you know what I mean."

I was seeing a production of *The Iceman Cometh*, while he was at college in Sacramento, that made him first think about an acting career. "I'd always taken drama classes because they seemed to be something you could fake your way through," he remembers, "but it wasn't until I got interested in O'Neill, Ibsen, Pirandello and all those other guys, that I knew I wanted to go into the theatre."

"Then when I did go into the theatre—I got a job at the Shakespeare Festival in Cleveland—it was as a carpenter and a stage manager, a scenic artist and a lighting technician. It took me a while to discover that if you are going to work in the theatre, then definitely the most magical place to be is on stage as an actor."

Hanks stayed in Cleveland for three years and then moved to New York where he acted with the Riverside Shakespeare Company. His first work outside the theatre was in an obscure slasher movie with the less than subtle title of *He Knows Your're Alone*. An inauspicious beginning in the film world perhaps, but Hanks insists he found it a relief after several years in Shakespeare.



Travelling light but taking time with his decisions: Tom Hanks can now choose his roles for their quality

"When you've played Montano in *Othello* a couple of times, let me tell you, you never want to do it again. I mean five months being the guy who runs out at the start of the second act and asks 'What from the cape can you discern at sea?' It begins to grate."

"This horror movie, it was the first job I had wearing regular pants, you know, as opposed to wearing sword belts or leather jinkies."

In 1980 Hanks was chosen as the star of a sitcom set in the world of advertising and called *Boxen Buddies*. It was cancelled after just a couple of seasons, but he landed a part in *Splash* shortly after his television contract expired, and he has not looked back since. He has made a total of 10 movies so far, which gives him a shelf life to him-

self in video shops, although he readily admits that most of them are not especially good.

"Movies speak for themselves," he says, "and I can't say I've ever done a movie that I think has been unfairly treated by anybody. I see them and I see that the potential of the script often isn't up there on screen at all."

One film which does seem to have lived up to Hanks's and everyone else's expectations is the black comedy *Punchlines*, which should reach British cinemas early next year. The story of aspiring stand-up comedians, it offered Hanks undoubtedly the most challenging role of his career to date—as a bitter social misfit and would-be comic—and he is already being talked of as a possible Oscar contender in 1989.

"I'm lucky," he says, "to be at the point where I only have to say yes to a film-part when I'm very hungry to explore the themes of the script. I was very interested by these people in *Punchlines* who are so driven to get up on stage. Sometimes it's because they're good at it, but sometimes it's because they need a sense of power to compensate for feelings of uselessness in the rest of their lives."

"Can I identify with those feelings? Sure I can. There's no one who doesn't have sadness in their lives or a sense of compromise in their way of living. I don't want to get into the sad clown cliché, but it's illogical to assume that just because a guy makes people laugh for a living, he has no cares in the world. He does."

Golden Teresa gives us her all

RECITAL

Teresa Berganza
Covent Garden

For a singer not to have to woo her audience might be considered a rather dangerous thing, and reasonably so. Teresa Berganza, however, is no complacent artist, and she put everything she had—which on occasion amounted to a little too much—into her characterizations in the course of this recital with her regular and impeccably sympathetic accompanist, J.A. Alvarez Parejo.

She began, as many recitalists do, with a group of eighteenth-century Italian arias, not, as promised, four by Alessandro Scarlatti, but instead three purported to be Pergolesi (much still commonly attributed to him is not his). Her voice took a little time to warm, but once it had she showed that her singing has lost little of its justly famed golden radiance.

If she is adventurous in her presentation, Berganza proved that she can be equally so in her programme planning, for the next piece was Rossini's solo cantata *Giovanna d'Arco*, written late in

the composer's comparatively short working life, in 1832. It is hardly his most extrovert music; only at the end does Rossini allow his soloist much in the way of spectacular fluidity. But it is paced and shaped with a master dramatist's sensitivity and Berganza delivers a suitably dignified performance, using eyes as much as vocal chords but producing some gorgeous high Gs into the bargain.

After the interval, and a change of dress, she reached Spain, as she was bound to do. Three folksy songs by Jesús Guridi produced some of that over-stated characterful singing, although "¿Cómo Quieres Que Adivine?" in the middle of the group had a delightful lightness about it. Then came the *Cuatro Madrigales Amatorios* of Joaquín Rodrigo, clean and simple and often colourful evocations of Iberian peasantry, and then four songs by Bizet.

Once more, Berganza overdid the adolescent coyness in "La Coccinelle", but it can bear such treatment, while "Chanson d'Avenir" possessed all the frustrated ardour it required and more, in spite of being short of a couple of verses.

Stephen Pettitt

Losing it in translation



Working hard: Rosemary Ashe

OPERA

La Belle Hélène
Sadler's Wells

Our decade is embarrassed by Offenbach. It is perhaps no coincidence that, at a time when English satirical writing seems to have lost its way, the theatre simply cannot handle that most biting and pungent of all operatic lampoonists.

Either spectacle preoccupies the eye or strenuous and often crude updating distracts the ear from an uneasy directorial vacuum. Hard working, shoestring student productions or polished concert performances have recently come nearest to the true spirit of Offenbach (*Robinson Crusoe* at the Proms or at the Guildhall). Tim Luscombe's new production for New Sadler's Wells Opera offers little cause for rejoicing.

The set is promising. A citron stage, dominated by a broad staircase, is overlooked by two theatre boxes: a Parisian audience of male box-holders in the 1860s is a neat way of solving the space problem for the chorus at this theatre. Utz has designed lurid panto-Greek costumes to match: Menelaus, the wimp (Bernard Dickerson) sports turquoise ostrich feathers and chrome boots; Helen herself (Rosemary Ashe)

vacillates between neon-pink with breastplate, and silver lamé.

But that is where the fun stops. Offenbach's sharp arrows become (literally in one case) the banana-skins of *Up Pompeii*, the choreography (if such it can be called) leans on clichéd routines, and the high points of each act reach several all-time lows.

The game of charades is weakened by the lack of a proper procession leading up to it, the crucial love duet ("Où, c'est un rêve") quite misses the delicate balance of tenderness and teasing within Offenbach's music; and the seaside finale, the climax of his heady celebration and censure of Venus, is sadly miscalculated.

In short, the infernal merry-go-round is neither infernal nor merry, and Simon Phillips, in the pit, is every bit as much at a loss in observing and pacing the nerve system of Offenbach's score. Rosemary Ashe gives her all, at an all-purpose musical-comedy level; but that is not enough for Offenbach. Her Paris, Peter Jeffes, is more ardent than his problematic voice production can safely take, while Jeremy Jacia, valiantly covering from the stage box for a miming Stuart Harling, struck dumb by a throat infection, adds a nicely disembodied dimension to the role of the soothing High Priest, Calchas.

Hilary Finch

Defiant smile

THEATRE

Hedda Gabler
Hampstead

It is easy to see through the armoured shell of the character to the cowering creature within Lindsay Duncan's portrayal of the eponymous heroine of Trevor Nunn's 1975 version of this play. The shell consists of no more than dazzling smile. She is wearing it when she first drifts on to undergo the clanny, encephalic of "Auntie Julia", and she is still sheltering behind it in the moments before she pulls the trigger.

Between these two points, Duncan builds up layer upon layer of temperamental detail, but never evoking the usual image of the dominating general's daughter. If you consider Hedda's tragedy to be that of raging vitality incapable of defying the pressures of conformity, then this performance will seem incomplete. It seemed magnificent complete on Friday night and answered questions that have always hung around the play.

For instance, after an excruciatingly boring six-month honeymoon immediately followed by a clamp-down on social engagements, you would expect the spoiled young wife to round on her husband in fury and tell him exactly where to put his library. In fact, Hedda and Tesman never exchange a directly cross word; a circumstance that becomes entirely believable if Hedda has no stomach for a fight.

What she does possess is a clear understanding of her own qualities: cowardice, and the habit of boring herself to death. Duncan, a languid figure, puts this over with piercing candour and, for once, without a smile, and goes on to show Hedda's main tactic for avoiding boredom: games.

One paradox of the play is that

Hedda, the convention-bound lady, generates a powerful erotic charge, while the convention-defying Mrs Elvsted does not. This balance is sustained in John Dove's production, although it would benefit from a more assertive bolting wife than Mari Rowland Hughes, in whom you can see the once victimized schoolgirl more than the free woman.

Otherwise, Hedda confronts a company of crushing adversaries who are no less formidable through being much funnier than usual. Rhodes Lewis's Julie and Jonathan Coy's Tesman exchange a hilarious series of introductory misunderstandings on the alternative future of the house as a library or a nursery; but not even the farce of Julie's hat, an aggressive boaster with a shuddering feather, diminishes the owner's power over the household.

Coy's Tesman is simply unreachable there is a terrible moment when he learns of the burning when he demands, in a shrill, whether she realizes that she has broken the law. While his voice may thicken with rage, he can never acknowledge his feelings in words.

Dermot Crowley's Lovborg is a standard portrait of the doomed intellectual. But Clive Francis's Brack is as brilliantly unexpected as Duncan's Hedda: a silk-voiced dandy, treating his hosts with amusement and barely suppressed disdain, who develops in danger to the point where you are more aware of his intent, unsmiling eyes than of anything he says.

Irving Wardle

Sailors and fairies at play

RADIO

One of the more sobering facts I have learned from the current celebrations of the Eugene O'Neill centenary is that he was the author of more than 70 plays. Of this gigantic canon, I would be hard put to it to name more than six.

So what does the rest of it consist of? Radio 3 is doing something to diminish my ignorance by broadcasting what are known as the *SS Glencairn* plays, four brief youthful works set on a British steamer in the first quarter of this century.

The venture began with *Moon of the Caribbees* (Saturday) which struck me as little more than an extended scene-setter. The *Glencairn* is anchored in some sweaty West Indian port. The play serves to introduce the characters common to all four.

In *Bound East for Cardiff* (Sunday) the action had an altogether stronger focus, but the most interesting thing about this second play was that it quickly began to sound like scene two of one continuous work.

Certainly the claustrophobic forebode of the *Glencairn* and its inhabitants has established a setting and a mood resembling that of the larger, more familiar work which I would expect to carry over into the third play, *In the Zone*, tonight.

In Steve Walker's *Him and It* (Radio 4, Wednesday), director, Jeremy Mortimer, the characters happen to be fairies and appar-

ently the last two of their kind, but still with dreams of bringing ordinary humans to a less barbaric way of life. Commissioner Sylvia (James Saxon), who thinks he is a man, favours the chattering influence, but it never works, because the human material is too poor. However, when Morris (Nicola McAuliffe) reveals that she (he?) is an amphibian and acts upon it to the tune of several hundred thousand eggs, the threat of extinction rapidly recedes.

Altogether an enchanting play, written with an earthly impudence that took it completely out of the world of Faery while endowing it with a curious credibility.

David Wade

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MONDAY PAGE

Women's champion or chain?

Pope John Paul II is celebrating his 11th year in office. Liz Gill wonders if women will join him

As an after-dinner diversion, the Pope has been known to ask his guests to pick their favourite character from history. When it comes to his own role regarding women, his critics suggest that he is playing Canute: they say he has set the papal throne against the waves of emancipation beating on the Church shore. His supporters, however, see him more as an Horatio holding the line of traditional values.

The paradox of Pope John Paul II, who celebrated the 10th anniversary of his election yesterday, is that he is a master of modern communication skills with a deeply conservative message. The result has been a growing conviction during the last decade among many women that, however popular and charismatic a figure, he remains deaf to their needs and aspirations.

Dr Ursula King, senior lecturer in theology at Leeds University and herself a Roman Catholic, says: "The Church's image of women has always been defined in terms of wife and mother. The role of work, for instance, in women's lives is not appreciated. Authority feels threatened by it. When I see the Pope, I'm always struck by the fact that he's surrounded by the old, the sick, the clergy or children, never by ordinary men and women."

"He's the old attitudes writ large," she says. "But I think he's the sort of an era. Many people feel they don't want another like him. They feel the reactionary factors are getting out of hand."

Margaret Hebblethwaite, author of *Motherhood and God*, a Roman Catholic and a counsellor at retreats, is not so optimistic. "The whole atmosphere has changed so dramatically: editors sacked, theologians suspended, bishops' powers curbed - and these weren't raving radicals. John Paul II has systematically appointed conservative bishops. Lively work is being undone and no one can experiment with ideas in this sort of climate."

On all the big "social" issues - contraception, divorce, abortion, homosexuality - the Pope has been uncompromisingly tough. But Hebblethwaite believes it is a mistake to lump them all together. Most Roman Catholics, she thinks, would agree with him on, say, abortion, disagree on contraception. What concerns her more is the failure to involve women in mainstream church activity.

"They've always said that the argument against the ordination of women is theological and nothing to do with male chauvinism. If this were the case, you would expect to see women at every other level. So why are there hardly any women in non-



The Princess of Wales in April 1985 with Pope John Paul II: a master of communication with a deeply conservative message

'A lot of women simply shrug their shoulders: they have learnt to wear the Pope lightly'

clerical positions? Why are there no women cardinals? You don't have to be ordained to be a cardinal. Why have women teachers and counsellors in American seminaries been told they can no longer give spiritual direction? That's pretty insulting."

The Pope's recent *Apostolic Letter on the Dignity and Vocation of Women* has re-

ceived a mixed response. Some see a slight shift towards greater emphasis on equality of the sexes, and are encouraged by his inclusion of female images of God; others view it as still overwhelmingly traditional.

Alexina Murphy is contact secretary of the Catholic Women's Network which was set up to campaign for equal-

ity and "full personhood" within the Church. She believes that it will only come about by changes in the status quo, particularly in the removal of celibacy as a prerequisite for ordination.

"Women of my generation grew up in one perspective and shifted to another. The idea that women are only fulfilled in motherhood, for

example, is nonsense. Because all the decisions are taken by those who have been ordained, all these experiences and ideas are not working their way through."

"How can the Pope take them on board? It's hard enough for men in marriages to understand what's going on."

Elaine Storkey, an Anglican

theologian and Open University philosophy lecturer, agrees. "I think a lot of women simply shrug their shoulders; they've learnt to wear the Pope lightly. His attitude seems to be: 'Don't bother with what doesn't concern you, don't meddle with theology' - but women are now handling the scriptures in the original languages and thinking for themselves. And they know this isn't right."

Storkey, founder of Men, Women and God, an organization set up to counter sexism in the Church, adds: "This Pope does have enormous charisma and it seems irresistible when you hear this man with his lovely face speaking in all these languages with such passionate conviction. I've studied women's responses and talked to them about it. While they are listening they do feel affirmed and good about their traditional roles, but when they come away they wonder what it was all about. They feel cheated."

"He would argue that he reaffirms the dignity and status of women, but this dignity is reserved for the few. What about the women who do not fit the stereotypes, who are not wives and mothers? Who's going to affirm them?"

The Catholic Marriage Advisory Council, with 80 branches and 1,000 counsellors, deals with social issues at the sharp end. It tackles not only marital crises but problems over children, abortion, drink and drug abuse, and contraception. Last year it handled 5,500 cases. "When the Pope states his vision of the ideal it can sometimes help," says Margaret Grimer, marriage preparation development of-

ficer. "If you are about to get married, for instance, it may give you courage."

More often she thinks it has the opposite effect, increasing the tension between the official pronouncements and "the best that people in the real world can manage. If people steal, they know that's wrong, whereas surveys show that people do not think contraception is wrong. Similarly, they may have made a conscious decision that their marriage has died. At the same time they keep being told they shouldn't be like that."

"So congregations are full of people playing happy Catholic families without daring to admit their daughters had an abortion or their marriage is breaking up. Instead of a parish being a source of mutual help, it's often a place where people put on their best Sunday faces."

The current ferment over the role of women in the Church is unlikely to diminish. Yet for countless other women this Pope remains a much-needed champion, his stance a vindication of their beliefs and ways of life. Anne McMurray, president of the National Board of Catholic Women, an umbrella organization covering two dozen different groups, says: "Of course women's expectations have changed. But being a mother, being with your children when they're small and bringing them up and running a home, is still the most important job you can do."

"The attitude to you these days if you are just a housewife and mother can be appalling. I think what the Pope says is a balance to this."

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Slaves of snobbery

From Mrs Annemiek Lines, Upper Norwood, London SE19

I have a guilty secret. I read your article "Slaves to the daily school run" (Monday Page, October 10) at 7.45 in the morning, still in bed, fully aware of the fact that my eldest son and daughter were about to leave for their secondary school outside the neighbourhood by themselves. I did get up after that, took my eight-year-old to the primary school a few streets away and my three-year-old to a nearby play group.

It is not that my children are not precious to me, but I do have a sense of self-preservation. Running an orderly household for six people is hard work, leaving no time for a frenzied school run.

Really, I can see no case for transporting small children for hours through traffic-choked streets each day other than a sense of social snobbery and/or the mistaken belief that the child's educational future would otherwise be doomed. As for older children, if they cannot make their own way to and from school by the time they are 11, they just do not deserve the sacrifices their parents are making to keep them there.

From Alison Horry, Kimbolton, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire

Beware all those mothers who are slaves to the school run. I, too, have driven 59 miles a day

TALKBACK

through all winds and weathers for the privilege of having our children at an independent school, while living two minutes from my husband's London train. I, too, have sat for hours after school with two of the children while waiting for the third. I, too, have passed up the idea of having a job, and therefore a recognized life of my own, as I thought that I was the linchpin of family life.

Of course the inevitable happened. My husband left me for the young blonde in the office who was free to go out to lunch and to dinner and away for the night, and who was incredibly efficient at her (paid) job.

And me? I've moved to be two minutes from the school. Life starts here.

From Mrs Eileen Harris, Broome, Stourbridge, Worcestershire

The hearts of all of us, especially those north of St Albans, go out to these poor women in their air-conditioned, stereo-equipped Mercedes. Poor Mallory, Chloe, Romilly, Aphra and Sacha, who have to cope not only with such names and double-barrelled surnames, but even, I can well imagine, a personalized number plate on the car. What horror!

How much luckier are the

Tracys, Sharonas and Kevins of this world, and their parents, who have only to walk to a school which, incidentally, they have not had the agonizing task of choosing. For them - the comfort of waiting at bus stops or for cancelled trains in wind, snow and rain.

From Sarah Roberts, Marlborough Rise, Camberley, Surrey

I would be interested to know how a mother can spend vast amounts of money on her children's education, yet fail to provide all those in her car with suitable seat-belts. People like Mrs Bacon, who regularly transport up to 10 people in a car at one time, should either purchase a larger vehicle or opt out of school runs.

From Corinne Russell, Little Everdon, Nr Daventry, Northants

Two and a half years ago I was doing nearly 80 miles a day with three children at three different schools between Brackley and Northampton, whatever the weather: rain, snow, fog and the worst of all, ice. Just two years ago I had a stroke (aged 32 years). Now, unable to drive and with two children at boarding school, one child at a school within 15 minutes' walk of my office, I can do a worthwhile job to keep them at independent schools. All are happier, more sociable, less tired and safer.

Kiss-and-tell killers

It has always been questionable whether the female of the species is in fact deadlier than the male, and the recent spate of kiss-and-tell memoirs by various bimbos and their male counterparts, himbos, throws even more doubt upon the matter.

The Bimbo's Tale, as related by Donna Rice *et al*, is a pretty innocuous affair (sorry about the pun). It is all about moonlit kisses, declarations of love, sailing trips, and rib-shattering bouts of passion. In fact, except for the little matter of the hero being married to somebody other than the woman he was sharing the moonlit kiss with, the whole thing could have been written by Barbara Cartland.

At the end of the day, after serializations in the tabloids, photographs of the bimbo, tearful but stunning in a Lycra swimsuit, and declarations of loyalty from the hero's wife, the man may have to suffer a brief period of political obscurity but is widely regarded as a lucky old dog.

The Bimbo's Tale is a more dangerous form of confessional. The latest version is a book by a male model (modelling and bimbo/himboism seem to go together. I have never heard of a bimbo/himbo who was a quantity surveyor). This model is called Michael Edwards, and his kissing and telling involves Priscilla



PENNY PERRICK

Presley. I bet that she now wishes she had gone to bed with a good book instead of indulging in "a roller-coaster ride of tenderness and trauma" with a babbling bimbo.

For this story is short on romance, long on disasters: drinking and drugs, abortions, family frictions between Priscilla and her daughter, Lisa Marie.

The book's promotional blurb tells of "a haunting legacy their love could not escape". But with a bimbo around, the one inescapable thing is that sooner rather than later he is going to get himself fixed up with a literary agent and a publisher. Since most himbos are not exactly over-achievers academically they probably have to look around for a ghost-writer too.

A woman has far more to lose than a man when she falls victim to the Michael-tells-all school of literature. If a bitter bimbo reveals that the man who once bought her diamond bracelets Woolworth doesn't sell, wears mismatched underwear, and leaves his clothes on

the floor, it's not exactly riveting news. But when told by a bimbo, the most elegant woman stands revealed as a tawdry slut.

A woman's self-confidence depends on her thinking that the impression she gives is of a person with immaculate clothes closets, sweaters neatly folded atop lavender-scented paper drawer-liners, whose hair is naturally streaked with aubergine highlights and who only takes a drink now and then to be sociable. After a bimbo has revealed the jumbled clothes in the wardrobe, the daily sessions at the hairdresser and the I am brandy, she may feel that the only thing left for her to do is to get to a nunnery.

I have never seen the appeal of himbos as I don't really care for people who are younger and prettier than I am (a growing cast of thousands). The men I fall for have steel-grey hair, dark suits and briefcases, and a communication problem. As long as I stick to primbos who, after looking deeply into my eyes for several minutes, mutter in a somewhat stricken way "I hope we meet again in the not too distant future", I think I can safely assume that the reading public will never know that my complexion is by courtesy of Ultraviolet and that I always eat a bacon sandwich before going out to dinner.



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Younger may win £800m more for forces

By Michael Evans, Defence Correspondent

Mr George Younger, the Secretary of State for Defence, will make his last bid for extra money, to pay for the armed services' costly equipment programmes, to the Treasury at the end of this week before appealing to the "Star Chamber" and, if necessary, to his Cabinet colleagues.

Mr Younger will be meeting Mr John Major, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, on Thursday or Friday, to underline once again that next year he will need more than the £500 million additional cash he was given last year, if key equipment modernization programmes are not to be shelved or cancelled.

According to senior Whitehall sources yesterday, Mr Younger is expected to win his argument for more funds — possibly up to £800 million extra — because of his warning that Britain must not be "seen to be" cutting back on important programmes at a time when the United States is leaning on Europe to share more of the defence burden.

Sources said that Mr Younger had also underlined the need for Britain to take a tough stance on conventional defence expenditure, particularly with the possibility of new talks starting in Vienna next year between Nato and the Warsaw Pact on reducing conventional force imbalances in Europe.

Although Treasury officials are said to be unimpressed by this political reasoning, Mr Younger knows that it is an argument which the Prime Minister would be the first to support. As one source said: "Mr Major will have to take this into account."

Mr Younger has a list of priority equipment which is regarded by all three service chiefs as the minimum necessary for meeting their requirements and maintaining a strong, credible, conventional deterrent force over the next 10 years.

There is no sense of rivalry between the three armed services for more money. But Mr Younger has stated in his talks so far with Mr Major — during the Conservative conference at Brighton last week — that there are fundamental decisions on new equipment which cannot be put off any longer.

One source said: "It's not a question of Younger just fighting the cause of the armed service chiefs. He has stated in pragmatic fashion that there are certain requirements that have to be met."

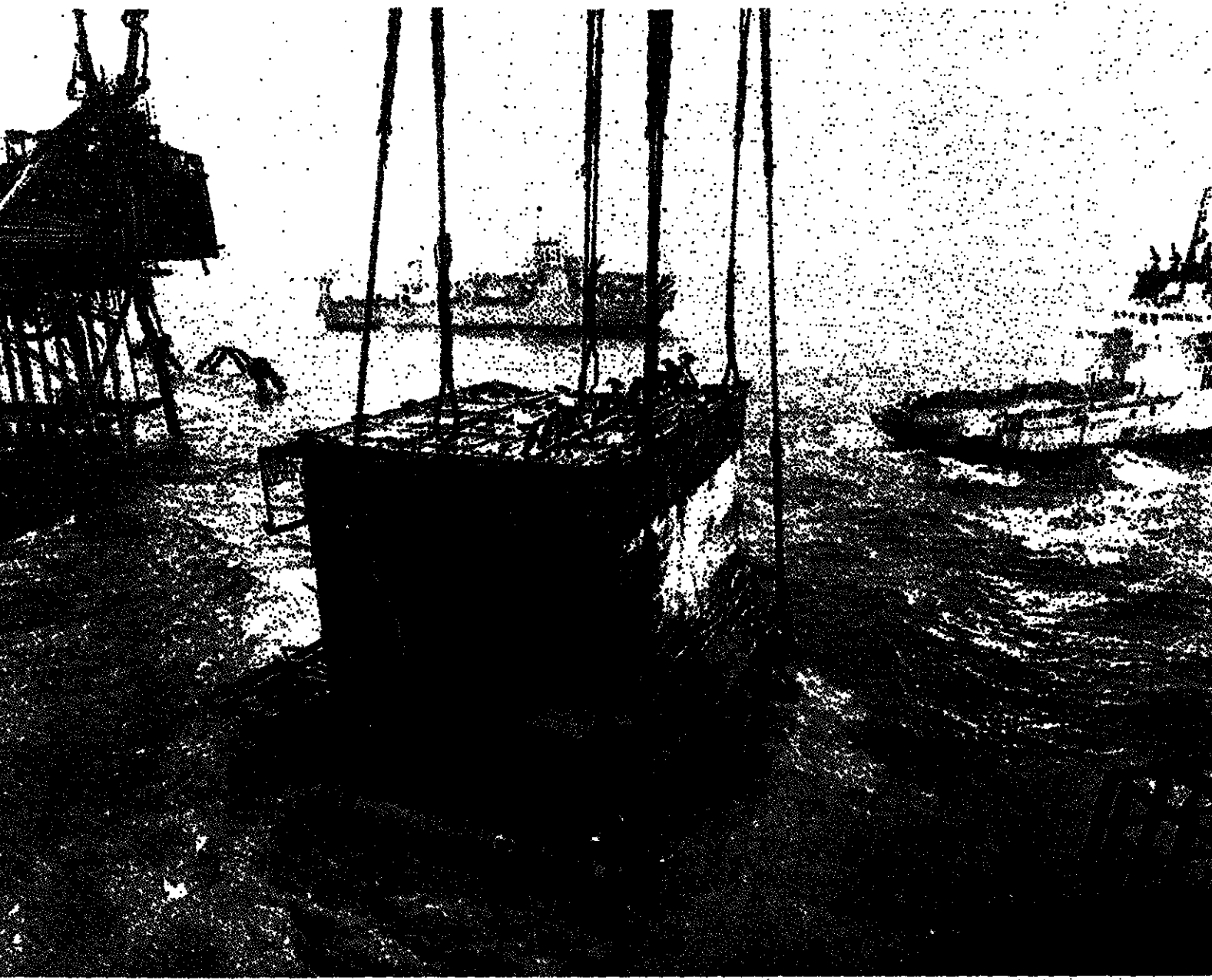
Top of the list is the need to replace the old Chieftain tanks. Under present requirements, they should be replaced by the mid-1990s. Mr Younger is in the process of deciding whether to replace them with a new model of the British Challenger battle tank, being developed by Vickers Defence Systems, or to buy the American M1 Abrams off the shelf from the US company, General Dynamics. The cost will be over £1 billion.

Although Mr Younger has stated many times that a decision would be made by the end of this year, sources said it could slip into next year. Also on the priority list is the Royal Navy requirement for two or three frigates to be ordered each year, at a cost of about £110 million each, to keep to the Government's commitment of maintaining a frigate/destroyer force of "around 50".

For the RAF, the crucial programme is the replacement of the Phantom and Jaguar aircraft with the European Fighter Aircraft, a collaborative programme involving Britain, West Germany, Italy and Spain. Britain's share of a full production programme would be about £7 billion.

Mr Alistair Lynn, Chief Constable of Grampian Police, who visited the scene yesterday with a senior CID officer, said that the search for bodies and personal belongings would take at least two weeks once the module had been taken to Ffion. The module, which will be transported on a barge, is expected to arrive in Orkney by the middle of the week.

Quarters of doomed rig raised from sea



Church leaders in Aberdeen yesterday appealed for the families of the victims to be left in peace during their bereavement. They also revealed that some families had been pestered with nuisance calls and begging letters, and widows had been made offers of marriage. The Rev James Stewart said: "Our hope is that people who have been bereaved and whose

bereavement is still raw will be left to themselves, and not find their lives further interrupted by intrusions of an unwelcome kind."

Mr Alastair Letty, master of the support vessel Tharus, first on the scene when the rig blew up, said: "It was very frustrating to realize that what we were doing was just not effective." He praised the crew of the diving support vessel, the Seaway Concor, and told of the dangers for divers working at such a depth next to the Piper Alpha wreckage. A diver

could easily be asphyxiated if he were sick inside his diving helmet, he said. The inside of the module will be made safe by engineering workers before the search for bodies can take place. Once recovered, bodies will be flown to Aberdeen, where it is hoped identification can be carried out.

The operation is being controlled by Grampian Police and 40 police officers will undertake the search. They, and workers involved, have had psychological counselling to prepare them for the task ahead.

'Poison gas used on Zia's plane'

From Zahid Hussain, Karachi

The crash of the C130 aircraft in which President Zia of Pakistan and 29 others died on August 29 was caused by sabotage carried out with poisonous gases concealed in packages of drinks or in boxes of mangoes, according to the report of a committee of inquiry released in Islamabad yesterday.

The report said that the gases could have been activated through a remote control device from either inside or outside the aircraft.

They incapacitated the pilot and co-pilot, resulting in loss of control of the aircraft. The passengers were also incapacitated within minutes, the report said.

The committee of inquiry, headed by Air Commodore Abbas Mirza, revealed that examination of the wreckage showed the presence of phosphorus and antimony.

The remains of boxes of mangoes which were loaded on board the aircraft in Balawalpur just before it took off also showed high concentrations of potassium and chlorine.

Announcing the findings, Pakistan's security chief, Mr Ijaz Ahmed, said that a technical committee assisted by experts from the United States had ruled out the possibility of the aircraft having been hit by a rocket or missile.

The report further said that there was no sign of an attempt to hijack the plane by any crew member or passenger. According to the committee's findings, the aircraft did not develop any technical faults.

The report, which ended two months of speculation about the causes of the plane crash, was presented yesterday to the caretaker President, Mr Ghulam Ishaq Khan.

Foreign ministers meet

EEC to promote glasnost

From Mario Modiano, Ioannina, Greece

The foreign ministers of the European Community agreed yesterday to promote democratic change in the Soviet bloc through increased trade and political dialogue. But Britain, often backed by Portugal, expressed strong reservations.

"The changes in the Soviet Union are still far from irreversible, and Mr Gorbachev is no democrat, he is the product of a Communist society," a British official said, echoing the scepticism of Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, at the informal closed meeting.

The foreign ministers, focused almost exclusively on the changing nature of East-West relations.

The ministers had the benefit of a prompt briefing from Signor Giulio Andreotti, the Italian Foreign Minister, who flew here directly from Moscow after his Prime Minister's talks with Kremlin leaders. Mr Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, who was

host to Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet Foreign Minister, in Paris last week, was also present.

Both Italy and France now seem more than ever convinced of the need to put more trust in President Gorbachev and to meet the Soviet Union half way — a position shared by Germany but not by Britain.

At one point in the discussions, Signor Andreotti reportedly turned to Sir Geoffrey and said: "Surely you do not want to wait until the Russians become Victorian capitalists?"

Where Britain dug in its heels was against accepting Moscow as a venue for the 1991 Human Rights Conference until there are tangible results of Soviet efforts to end abuses.

At a news conference Mr Karolos Papoulias, the Greek Foreign Minister, summed up the main conclusions. "The Twelve decided that developments in the Soviet Union and

the other countries of Eastern Europe dictate a positive response from the European Community."

The foreign ministers had reaffirmed their resolve to pursue political dialogue with the Soviet Union and closer economic links.

Chile and the Middle East were the only other topics discussed. On the Middle East, no immediate steps are to be taken, but the ministers are urging the divided opposition in Chile to reconcile their differences, and hoped that free and democratic elections would soon be held.

Earthquake damage: An earthquake measuring six on the Richter Scale at 2.35 pm yesterday caused extensive damage to towns and villages in western Greece and the Peloponnese. The Ministry of Public Order said 17 people were injured, three of them seriously. A quay collapsed at Killini, forcing suspension of the ferry service to Zante.

Letters, page 17

Thatcher set to reject M15 inquiry

By Michael Evans

The Prime Minister is expected to resist Opposition demands for a full inquiry into the allegations by Mr Peter Wright, the former M15 officer, that there was a security service plot against the Wilson Government in 1974.

Former Cabinet colleagues of Mr Harold Wilson (now Lord Wilson of Rievaulx), including Mr John Morris, the shadow Attorney General, and Mr Merlyn Rees, the former Labour Home Secretary, believe that an inquiry is necessary to answer the questions raised by *Spycatcher*.

However Mrs Thatcher has made clear that she is sticking by her Commons statement of May 1987 after the *Spycatcher* allegations had been made public. She said then that inquiries had been made and she was assured there was no evidence of any M15 plot.

Mr Wright himself, in a BBC *Panorama* interview last week, admitted that the plot story in *Spycatcher* had been exaggerated.

Coal sell-off is key to Tory election strategy

Continued from page 1

of the election campaign, much to Mr Kinnock's discomfort.

The coal privatisation could conceivably have been rushed through towards the end of this parliament. But the vasty complicated privatisation will dominate a whole parliamentary session and to do it before an election would have brought the disadvantage of uniting the Labour Party in Parliament against a measure whose practical results would not have shown through by the time voters went to the polls.

Privatising the coal industry will be a long-drawn-out affair unlike any previous privatisation in that British Coal is effectively not just a business but a regulating authority as well.

It owns all the coal reserves in Britain and no-one may work them without British Coal's permission. In effect, since the disappearance of the old Coal Commission, British Coal has become the arbiter of what is in the national interest in the context of the coal

industry. That means that such functions will have to be taken away from any private company and vested in the Crown.

Mr Edwards, whose management team has brought British Coal to the point where it is on course to break-even financially for the first time in 11 years, is concerned that in the first flush of privatisation, the electricity industry will be tempted to charge around the world buying spot-price coal with results which would decimate his industry.

He fears that the pressure of unfettered free marketeering taking a short-term view could lead to irretrievable pit closures and herald a serious decline in Britain's self-sufficiency in the energy field.

Every million tonnes of coal lost to foreign importers puts 3,500 British mining jobs at risk and the most vulnerable coalfields are in Nottinghamshire, where members of the Union of Democratic Mineworkers are leading the way in agreeing to the introduction of flexible working

ANC rugby move may cause Afrikaner split

Continued from page 1

process," said Mr Ebrahim Patel, the president of the predominantly black union, who has up until now supported the international sports boycott, and who read out the joint statement.

It said that once this step had been taken South African rugby could "take its rightful place in world rugby".

Although those attending the meeting refused to comment on the agreement, the ANC's spokesman said on Saturday: "It is necessary to boycott and isolate apartheid South Africa in all its manifestations. But where non-racial, anti-apartheid structures emerge in South Africa, they can not be treated in the same way."

While the meeting will surely create a rift in white South Africa, it will also cause an almost equally fierce debate within the ANC and among anti-apartheid campaigners abroad.

The impact of the agreement will have to be assessed by the Commonwealth governments, in view of the

Glasgow agreement, by the Anti-Apartheid Movement, and by other popular sports in South Africa like white-dominated cricket and black-dominated football.

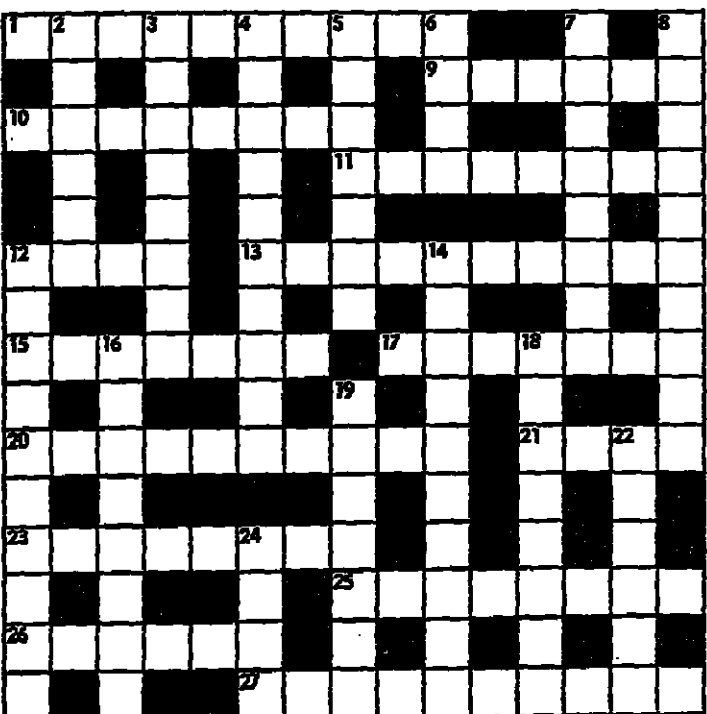
Commonwealth sources said that it was too early to comment on the agreement until the timetable and the details were worked out.

But the British Government is expected to see the move as a vindication of its policy of opposing international boycotts, encouraging dialogue between blacks and whites.

JOHANNESBURG: President Botha of South Africa and his Foreign Minister, Mr R. F. "Pik" Botha, welcomed contacts with black Africa at the weekend with a five-hour stopover in the Ivory Coast on their return from a nine-day European visit.

They had talks with President Houphouët-Boigny, who has ruled the conservative and prosperous West African state since it was granted independence by France in 1960. He is the fourth African leader to receive President Botha.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 17,802



ACROSS

- 1 He's always in the red at Christmas (5).
- 9 Charge everyone for example a quarter (6).
- 10 Having no catalogue, is not really interested (8).
- 11 The chests of well-grown youths (8).
- 12 A slight lack of clarity in speech (4).
- 13 The gardener finding runners may go berserk (10).
- 15 Tearful woman with nothing for retirement (7).
- 17 Few cut a Liberal (7).
- 20 Sent on plant without credit being arranged (10).
- 21 Coppers bet for fun (4).
- 23 A form of support many a worker is wearing (8).
- 25 Denominations in brief (8).
- 26 A union measure (6).
- 27 Reinvigorate a green tree that has been moved (10).

DOWN

- 2 Brutal strike in a recession (6).
- 3 Note the revolutionary must be kept in check (8).
- 4 Issue raised by an American prospector (10).
- 5 Wind direction is plain (7).
- 6 Pole left holding gold for a one-time leader of Israel (4).
- 7 Progressive man using military force no longer (8).
- 8 The main boy friend at a particular time (10).
- 12 Turnover resulting from a reversal of policy (10).
- 14 Some improvement might be made in tone (10).
- 16 Going for French and German articles on fashion (5,3).
- 18 Far ripe produce grown by 13 ac (8).
- 19 Swearing to give voice about rubbishy stuff (7).
- 22 Charm a beast tigrish at first (6).
- 24 A little space reserved for a maple tree (4).

Concise crossword, page 22

WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

KINABRA

- a. The smell of a goat
- b. An expensive brassiere
- c. Green lapis lazuli

COMEDO

- a. A Spanish burlesque
- b. A Hungarian Count's title
- c. A black-head

WHID

- a. Whither, to what end
- b. A lie
- c. To sort grain from chaff

AWU

- a. A New Zealand bird
- b. Absent Without Uniform
- c. A measure of weight

Answers on page 22, column 1

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 17,801 will appear next Saturday

WEATHER

Most parts will start dull and overcast with some fog patches, more especially over high ground. Some sunny spells will develop, mainly along the west coast and in southern England. Where the sun breaks through it will become quite warm, although North Sea coasts will stay cool. Outlook: mainly dry but rain spreading from the west later.

ABROAD

MONDAY: t-tender; d-dry; f-fog; s-sun; sl-sleet; sn-snow; l-fair; c-cloud; r-rain

	C	F		C	F
Algeria	27	81	Lucerne	21	70
Alexandria	27	81	Luxembourg	14	57
Athens	27	81	Lyon	14	57
Bahia	27	81	Madrid	14	57
Bombay	27	81	Mannheim	14	57
Buenos Aires	27	81	Moscow	14	57
Calcutta	27	81	Munich	14	57
Cairo	27	81	Naples	14	57
Cardiff	27	81	Nice	14	57
Chennai	27	81	Paris	14	57
Copenhagen	27	81	Rome	14	57
Dublin	27	81	Seoul	21	70
Edinburgh	27	81	Singapore	27	81
Geneva	27	81	Sydney	20	68
Hamburg	27	81	Taipei	27	81
Helsinki	27	81	Tokyo	27	81
Istanbul	27	81	Toronto	27	81
Jakarta	27	81	Winnipeg	27	81
Kobe	27	81	Zurich	14	57
London	27	81			

AROUND BRITAIN

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs
London	14	15	16	17	18
Birmingham	14	15	16	17	18
Manchester	14	15	16	17	18
Cardiff	14	15	16	17	18
Edinburgh	14	15	16	17	18
Glasgow	14	15	16	17	18
Newcastle	14	15	16	17	18
Sheffield	14	15	16	17	18
Southampton	14	15	16	17	18
Wolverhampton	14	15	16	17	18

THE POUND

	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.24	2.24	2.24
Canada \$	2.24	2.24	2.24
Denmark kr	7.46	7.46	7.46
France F	6.55	6.55	6.55
Germany M	2.36	2.36	2.36
Italy L	2036	2036	2036
Japan Y	161	161	161
Netherlands G	2.20	2.20	2.20
Norway N	4.76	4.76	4.76
Portugal P	200	200	200
Spain P	166	166	166
Sweden S	4.66	4.66	4.66
Switzerland F	2.00	2.00	2.00
USA \$	1.53	1.53	1.53
Yugoslavia D	23.6	23.6	23.6

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

HIGHEST & LOWEST

Sunday: Highest day temp: Valley, Angsey, 20.0°C; lowest day temp: Llanfair, 10.0°C; highest night temp: Llanfair, 10.0°C; lowest night temp: Llanfair, 10.0°C.

LIGHTING-UP TIME

	London	Edinburgh	Glasgow
5.30 pm to 7.00 am	5.30 pm to 7.00 am	5.30 pm to 7.00 am	5.30 pm to 7.00 am
5.30 pm to 7.00 am	5.30 pm to 7.00 am	5.30 pm to 7.00 am	5.30 pm to 7.00 am
5.30 pm to 7.00 am	5.30 pm to 7.00 am	5.30 pm to 7.00 am	5.30 pm to 7.00 am

THE POUND

	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.24	2.24	2.24
Canada \$	2.24	2.24	2.24
Denmark kr	7.46	7.46	7.46
France F	6.55	6.55	6.55
Germany M	2.36	2.36	2.36
Italy L	2036	2036	2036
Japan Y	161	161	161
Netherlands G	2.20	2.20	2.20
Norway N	4.76	4.76	4.76
Portugal P	200	200	200
Spain P	166	166	166
Sweden S	4.66	4.66	4.66
Switzerland F	2.00	2.00	2.00
USA \$	1.53	1.53	1.53
Yugoslavia D	23.6	23.6	23.6

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NOON TODAY

London 5.30 pm to 7.00 am; Edinburgh 5.30 pm to 7.00 am; Glasgow 5.30 pm to 7.00 am.

YESTERDAY

	G	F	C	F
Belfast	13	55	55	13
Birmingham	13	55	55	13
Cardiff	13	55	55	13
Edinburgh	13	55	55	13
Glasgow	13	55	55	13
London	13	55	55	13
Newcastle	13	55	55	13
Sheffield	13	55	55	13
Southampton	13	55	55	13
Wolverhampton	13	55	55	13

THE POUND

	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.24	2.24	2.24
Canada \$	2.24	2.24	2.24
Denmark kr	7.46	7.46	7.46
France F	6.55	6.55	6.55
Germany M	2.36	2.36	2.36
Italy L	2036	2036	2036
Japan Y	161	161	161
Netherlands G	2.20	2.20	2.20
Norway N	4.76	4.76	4.76
Portugal P	200	200	200
Spain P	166	166	166
Sweden S	4.66	4.66	4.66
Switzerland F	2.05	2.05	2.05
UK £	2.95	2.95	2.95
West Germany M	2.36	2.36	2.36

	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.24	2.24	2.24
Canada \$	2.24	2.24	2.24
Denmark kr	7.46	7.46	7.46
France F	6.55	6.55	6.55
Germany M	2.36	2.36	2.36
Italy L	2036	2036	2036
Japan Y	161	161	161
Netherlands G	2.20	2.20	2.20
Norway N	4.76	4.76	4.76
Portugal P	200	200	200
Spain P	166	166	166
Sweden S	4.66	4.66	4.66
Switzerland F	2.05	2.05	2.05
UK £	2.95	2.95	2.95
West Germany M	2.36	2.36	2.36

	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.24	2.24	2.24
Canada \$	2.24	2.24	2.24
Denmark kr	7.46	7.46	7.46
France F	6.55	6.55	6.55
Germany M	2.36	2.36	2.36
Italy L	2036	2036	2036
Japan Y	161	161	161
Netherlands G	2.20	2.20	2.20
Norway N	4.76	4.76	4.76
Portugal P	200	200	200
Spain P	166	166	166
Sweden S	4.66	4.66	4.66
Switzerland F	2.05	2.05	2.05
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Italy L	2036	2036	2036
Japan Y	161	161	161
Netherlands G	2.20	2.20	2.20
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Portugal P	200	200	200
Spain P	166	166	166
Sweden S	4.66	4.66	4.66
Switzerland F	2.05	2.05	2.05
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Denmark kr	7.46	7.46	7.46
France F	6.55	6.55	6.55
Germany M	2.36	2.36	2.36
Italy L	2036	2036	2036
Japan Y	161	161	161
Netherlands G	2.20	2.20	2.20
Norway N	4.76	4.76	4.76
Portugal P	200	200	200
Spain P	166	166	166
Sweden S	4.66	4.66	4.66
Switzerland F	2.05	2.05	2.05
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Switzerland F	2.05	2.05	2.05
UK £	2.95	2.95	2.95
West Germany M			

THE TIMES

MONDAY OCTOBER 17 1988

CHANGE ON WEEK

FT-30 Share	US dollar
1494.0 (+3.8)	1.7550 (+0.0575)
FT-SE 100	W German mark
1840.5 (-4.1)	3.1809 (+0.0244)
USM (Datastream)	Trade-weighted
161.16 (+0.09)	76.9 (+1.0)

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Top homes hit less by mortgage rates rise

The top end of the housing market is suffering less from the recent rises in mortgage rates than properties in the lower and middle price ranges, a report out today says.

Savills, the estate agents, in conjunction with Crowly Financial Services, show that buyers of expensive properties tend to be less vulnerable to higher mortgage rates because they have a higher proportion of the equity of their houses.

In addition, buyers at the top end have tended to borrow less in relation to income than those for low and middle priced properties.

Figures from Savills and Crowly show that in the second quarter of this year the debt-to-equity ratio for borrowers at the top end was 56.1 per cent and the advance-to-income ratio was 2.12. This was for properties with an average sale price of just more than £280,000, bought by people on an average income of just below £75,000.

This compared with figures from the Halifax Building Society, for the same period, based on average house prices of nearly £67,000, of debt-equity ratios averaging 67 per cent, and an average advance to income ratio of 2.85.

Oil ministers talk in Riyadh

Oil ministers of the Gulf Cooperation Council met in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, yesterday to attempt to agree on a position for this week's meeting of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' inner council in Madrid, which will try to find a way to stave off sharp falls in the oil price.

Saudi Arabia is understood to have tried to unite its Gulf neighbours behind a plan to cut Opec production from its present level of about 21 million barrels a day to 19 million by agreeing higher, but more realistic, quotas which will also govern output from Iraq, which refused to accept a quota during the Gulf war.

The price of North Sea Brent crude jumped 40 cents to \$13 per barrel late on Friday.

Mecca set to raise holding
Mecca Leisure, which is bidding £750 million for Pleasureama, is set to increase its stake in Pleasureama to more than 20 per cent today, after lifting its holding to 18.4 per cent on Friday.

Three-quarters of the total are acceptances, but Mecca is now free to try for a further 10 per cent of Pleasureama. Mecca also owns, or has acceptances for, 8 per cent of Pleasureama convertible preferences and 10 per cent of its new convertible preference shares.

Tempos, Page 26

Italian steel subsidy plan
The EEC executive commission will propose allowing Italy to grant substantial subsidies to save Finisider, its loss-making state-owned steel company.

The commission will submit its proposals to a meeting of EEC industry ministers next Friday.

Telegraph buy
Mr Conrad Black's Canadian company, Hollinger, has spent £26 million buying another 10 per cent of The Daily Telegraph from its institutions at 200p per share, taking its holding up to 80.7 per cent.

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★★★★★

New mines in the offing for ConsGold

By Colin Campbell

Consolidated Gold Fields, now entering a critical battle period in its fight against the hostile £2.9 billion share and cash bid from Minorco, will this week announce the prospect of two new gold mines in the United States.

The deposits, Mule Canyon in Nevada and Elkhorn in Montana, are estimated to contain more than 1 million ounces of gold and will be cited as further evidence of ConsGold's earnings and dividend potential.

If further exploration work shows the American deposits are commercially viable, a decision to go ahead with a mining project will follow.

The week ahead is crucial. ConsGold is anxious that the Government make known this week whether DTI inspectors are to be appointed to investigate alleged insider trading in shares and options ahead of Minorco's formal September 21 announcement of a bid. Heavy option positions become exercisable on October 26, and unless in-

vestigations are underway it is probably the option holders' identities will never be known.

ConsGold is also anxious for a decision on whether or not Lord Young is going to refer Minorco's bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The first closing date of Minorco's offer is tomorrow week.

ConsGold, in its defence document against the offer which values each ConsGold share at £12.69 against a current market price of £12.33, argues that a successful Minorco bid would mean the dismemberment of ConsGold.

Mr Rudolph Agnew, ConsGold's chairman, adds that ConsGold has some of the finest reserves of gold and stone in the world, and the skills to exploit them. He says ConsGold shareholders are being offered shares of "dubious quality and value", and that Minorco's current offer seriously undervalues ConsGold.

ConsGold is now finalising an estimate of its current worth, to be published later

this week, which will be in shareholders' hands in time for their consideration ahead of the October 25 first closing date.

The stock market expects this exercise to show a net worth of at least £14.75, and possibly as high as £16, which in turn will show Minorco's offer to be "cheap".

If Minorco fails to win Consolidated Gold Fields at this first closing date — due to shareholders' reluctance to accept Minorco paper as well as the level of the bid — the Luxembourg-based group is likely to raise its bid and include a full cash alternative.

Minorco yesterday dismissed the ConsGold defence document as having no relevance to shareholders. "It seems to be praying for Government or divine intervention. The main facts and the financial issues have not been addressed at all," Minorco says.

Minorco, in its latest document, charges that ConsGold has been selling assets to boost profits, and that its potential for profit and dividend growth is limited.

Lawson to underline 'stable sterling' policy

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, will emphasize this week that the stability of the pound remains a priority.

He will also concede, in his annual speech on monetary policy at the Mansion House on Thursday, that it will be several months before the money supply comes back within target and he will allow for a more flexible approach to funding.

The Chancellor's insistence that interest rates would be kept high until the economy cooled has caused dealers to regard sterling as a "one-way bet", with the authorities acquiescing, using the rise as a weapon against inflation.

Treasury officials stressed that the Chancellor's comments on interest rates were not new. In his Mansion House speech, he is expected to say that the authorities will

prevent both a depreciation in sterling as well as a strong rise.

The targeted measure of the money supply, M0, grew about 8.1 per cent last month, figures will show on Thursday, compared with a year earlier. The target range is 1 to 5 per cent.

The Chancellor will admit that while some overshoot was foreseen, it was

glit-edged 26

bigger, and lasted longer, than expected.

The action to raise base rates from 7.5 per cent to 12 per cent over the summer will produce a slowdown in M0, the Chancellor will say, but probably not in time to bring it back within the target this financial year.

In the glit-edged market, close attention will be paid to

the Chancellor's comments on funding. The large and growing public sector surplus, expected to top £10 billion this year, has forced the Bank of England to buy in gilts and there is talk of cancellation of the Bank's gilt auction planned for January.

Greenwell Montagu, in its weekly Glit-Edged Market Background, published today, says the authorities are likely to overfund considerably this year, in spite of this buying-in.

The Treasury stressed that last week's announcement of a new National Savings capital bond did not signal a return to overfunding.

However, the Chancellor may also signal a more flexible arrangement, whereby the public sector borrowing requirement is fully funded over time, but not necessarily, in the same financial year.

Volcker worried by US inflation

By Our Economics Correspondent

Mr Paul Volcker, the former chairman of the United States Federal Reserve Board, gave a warning over the weekend of the dangers of a substantial increase in inflation in the US and a loss of confidence in the dollar.

Mr Volcker, who was Fed chairman until last year, said at a debt seminar in Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, that inflation of 4 to 5 per cent at a time when the economy was near full employment and price pressures were mounting was worrying.

"I don't consider 4 or 5 per cent a modest inflation rate," he said. "If we begin considering that as modest... I will guarantee that it will be a lot higher, and in not very long."

Producer price data released



Volcker: danger warning in Washington on Friday showed a rise of 0.4 per cent in September, after a 0.6 per cent increase in August.

Mr Volcker said that inflationary pressures were partly disguised because of the weakness of energy prices, and had not had the effect of boosting wages. He also called for early action on the budget deficit.

Retail sales 'fail to match forecasts'

By Our Economics Correspondent

Retail sales failed to live up to expectations last month and a slowdown in spending appears to be under way, according to Mr Nigel Whitaker, chairman of the Confederation of British Industry's Distributive Trades Survey Panel.

The latest CBI/FT distributive trades survey, published today, shows the increase in sales volumes compared with a year earlier was smaller in September than at any time since April.

Retailers had expected strong growth in sales last month, with a record balance of 70 per cent of firms anticipating sales growth, compared with a year earlier.

But the balance of those experiencing sales increases over those with no change or a decline was 54 per cent, strong by past standards but down on

August's 59 per cent. For October, retailers expect sales growth but they are less optimistic than they were a month ago. A balance of 55 per cent expect to record a sales increase this month.

"With sales growth showing some moderation in September, the impact of higher mortgage rates may have already started to feed through," Mr Whitaker said. "A greater impact is likely after October's mortgage rate rise."

Wholesalers reported a sales pick-up but anticipate slower growth this month. The figures, while indicating some moderation in consumer spending growth, suggest that it may not have slowed enough to produce a speedy improvement in the current account deficit.

Darkest side, page 32.

The once carless oil driller who now wants Carless

How an Austin paved way to millions

By Carol Ferguson

Mr Hubert Perrodo, the 44-year-old Parisian who launched a surprise £212 million bid for Carless, the oil independent, through Kelt Energy on Friday, is personally worth some £160 million — not bad for a man who sold his Austin 1100 to get started 13 years ago.

As with many successes, he founded his business by having the right idea in the right place at the right time.

The location was the Far East, where his oil industry connections started in Singapore 20 years ago. He began as a drifter with Foreign-Schubert, moving to Conax to take charge of marine logistics four years later.

In the mid-1970s, Total, the French oil company, was drilling for oil in Borneo, and needed boats as tugs for its barges. Mr Perrodo, with an architect, designed one which won a three-year contract. He sold his car to raise some money,

used the security of the Total contract to raise further finance and has never looked back. Within two years, his Perrodo Group had 40 boats, and had contracts with several leading oil companies including Deminor, the West German company, and Chevron.

With nine offshore drilling rigs, five land rigs, two accommodation jack-ups and a VLCC storage tanker in his arsenal of equipment, Mr Perrodo estimates his drilling company alone is worth at least \$100 million (£57 million). The Perrodo Group also owns 65 per cent of Kelt Energy, an oil and gas company with assets mainly in the US.

Oil service companies have, on the whole, avoided going into the exploration business as it can create conflicts with their oil company clients. However, in 1985, Mr Perrodo took the unusual step of forming an exploration company. "I decided to move into oil and gas

production because I thought that in 1985 the oil price would drop," he said. And it did.

"I bought cheap, at \$1 a barrel in the ground, and I am selling it at \$5 a barrel now," he says. "There were a lot of worried people around at that time, and I bought from the banks, and from highly geared, worried people."

Kelt Energy itself was formed last April through a £138 million reverse takeover of M Perrodo's oil interests by Concorde, the UK listed company, in which M Perrodo had a 51 per cent stake.

M Perrodo's objective, if he gets Carless under his belt, is to transform the two main parts of the group into separate, quoted companies. All of which will leave him very little time for his only recreation — polo. He keeps 12 ponies at his home 35 miles outside Paris. He added ruefully: "I don't think I will see my polo ponies for a while."

'English answer to the pizza' mass produced



Heading for the US: Wondercourt's Stuart Hepworth with Grandma Batty's puddings (Photograph: Asadour Guzelian)

Yorkshire pudding set to batter world

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Grandma Batty's Traditional Yorkshire Pudding, the ultimate North Country fast-food concept, is heading south, and is even preparing to invade the United States, Australia and Spain through the less than traditional concept of franchising.

The proud sponsors of Grandma Batty's challenge are Mr Stuart Hepworth, a catering equipment specialist who is chairman of Bright House-based Wondercourt, West Yorkshire, and his managing director, Mr Norman Waterhouse, who was formerly an operations director at Trusthouse Forte.

"This is the first truly British fast food, except for

fish and chips," Mr Hepworth said. "Yorkshire pudding is notoriously difficult to make, and to do it on a commercial scale cost us £50,000 and took two years just to get the product right."

But since launching in Yorkshire last November — in *Last of the Summer Wine* country at Holmfirth, Mr Hepworth's birthplace — the company has built up production to 50,000 puddings a week and a likely turnover in the full year of up to £750,000. The company is already making an operating profit, Mr Hepworth said.

Franchisees, so far covering about a third of Britain, sell and deliver large baked and

frozen puddings, mainly to pubs. Added fillings can range from onion gravy and steak to chicken curry and chilli con carne. But 10 per cent of the trade is to restaurants, including smaller puddings to go with roast beef.

Mr Hepworth said one of the biggest problems on a production line was keeping fat consistently hot. But Jackson Bakeries at Hull, which now prepares the puddings, finally overcame that, and the project went ahead.

Mr Hepworth has gone into a joint venture with First Hamblin, the casinos-to-garages group. To launch a chain of "emporiums" with old-style York oven ranges and

waitresses in period dress. With himself and Mr David Hamblin as joint chairmen the company plans to open two pilot outlets. The first, in York, will be open by the year-end, and negotiations have started for a central London emporium.

Mr Hepworth hopes to attack the American market by Easter, through a joint venture with a US operator, while the franchising route is likely to be taken in Australia and Spain.

He said: "What we have is the English answer to the pizza, except that Yorkshire pudding is a lot more flexible for fillings and can be used as a starter, main course or sweets."

Sun Life link with French to go ahead

By Richard Thomson

A trading link between Sun Life and Union des Assurances de Paris, the French insurance group, is now certain to be forged. An agreement is expected within days between all the main parties involved.

An earlier scheme was decisively rejected by Sun Life shareholders at an extraordinary meeting two weeks ago.

As part of the compromise, Transatlantic, the South African-controlled group which owns 28 per cent of Sun Life,

will at last be given two seats on the board of the British company. Relations between Mr Donald Gordon, head of Transatlantic, and Mr Peter Grant, chairman of Sun Life, had become increasingly strained this year because of Sun Life's consistent refusal to give Mr Gordon board seats on terms he would accept.

Mr Gordon was instrumental in getting the original proposals for Sun Life's link with UAP rejected as a bad deal, although he has continued to support the objective of Sun Life expanding on the Continent, ready for 1992.

The new UAP deal, which is not expected to be put before shareholders for a vote, will no longer include Sun Life taking a share in the French group, which would have been too small to influence UAP.

UAP, however, already controls 18.2 per cent of Sun Life through a 10.7 per cent stake of its own — bought immediately after the first scheme was rejected — and 7.5 per cent

owned by Groupe AG, a Belgian company.

The new agreement will also involve shelving plans for a £60 million rights issue, at least until the link with UAP has begun to operate.

Other clauses in the agreement remain broadly unchanged. Sun Life and UAP will co-operate in joint ventures in Europe and will not try to enter each other's home market. However, they will be able to operate independently in other parts of the world.

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TEMPUS

Vodafone rings soundly for Racal

By 10 am on Friday, all the arguments over Racal's flotation of its telecom operations will be settled by the verdict of the market. Barring accidents, when the applications are gathered and counted, the outcome will prove to have justified the confident approach of Sir Ernest Harrison, the Racal Telecom chairman, Mr Gerry Wheat, his chief executive, and their advisers Goldman Sachs, NM Rothschild and Hoare Govett.

But even now, the critics of the £1.7 billion valuation put on Racal Telecom, owner of the dazzlingly successful Vodafone concern, refuse to be silenced. This weekend, clients of Kleinwort Grieson, the broker, are being told that Racal Telecom is worth no more than £1.2 billion and that on a worst-case scenario it is worth even less.

KG's consistently bearish analysis rests on two entirely different premises: first, a discounted cash flow valuation which throws up almost the lowest numbers among leading financial houses; second, KG says Vodafone will be so successful in terms of the returns it will earn that OfTel, the government watchdog for the telecoms industry, will have to act.

Leaving aside the apparent conflicts between the two premises, there is nothing whatsoever unusual in a wide range of valuations based on present forecasts of future cash flow. Followers of North Sea exploration companies are all too familiar with widely varying appraised asset valuations for the same company.

Given a large number of variables and some essential subjectivity on the matter of which is the appropriate discount factor to use, the range of answers can be great. So would-be investors should not be deterred by KG's cash flow numbers. These say that Racal Telecom is worth roughly half the £2.4 billion calculated by Warburg Securities using essentially the same approach.

KG's assertion that OfTel will have to act when Vodafone is showing a return of 100 per cent on its invested capital is at least easier to understand. But it may be no more relevant. To use another oily comparison, the early pioneers in offshore exploration were allowed some fancy returns from the Piper, Clay-



Confident approach: Gerry Wheat (left) and Ernest Harrison of Racal Telecom, last week (Photograph: Marc Aspland)

more and Thistle Fields in return for the risks and the huge amounts of capital required by the projects.

So long as there is no change of government, it is unlikely that the Prime Minister will be keen to be seen moving the investment goal posts for Vodafone and Celnet, having watched them do a sterling job of launching a new industry and putting Britain in the forefront of its technology.

It is much more likely that both companies will compete by lowering tariffs voluntarily at some stage, if only to make life tougher for a rival when a third cellular licence is granted some time in the early 1990s. That said, the Racal Telecom is not without its risks. Can Vodafone keep system capacity growing faster than its subscriber list? What happens if Celnet cuts prices aggressively, and what impact will the cheaper CT2 mobile phone system have on cellular? In the long run, what about the third man?

In the near future, Vodafone's performance should silence all but the sternest critics. Even the sky high p/e ratio of 30.5 on which the shares are being floated will be quickly cut to size by speedy growth in profits. Citicorp Scrimgeour Vickers sees 1987-88 operating profits of £50.3

million rising to £52 million in five years. This compound growth of almost 50 per cent per year is why on Friday, the "eyes" will have it.

Mecca

Mr Michael Guthrie of Mecca is a remarkable businessman. Against a great deal of scepticism he managed to persuade the conservative and often narrow-minded institutions to invest in his company when he brought it to market — and to achieve a high rating for Mecca shares — despite the general perception that Mecca's main businesses were mature and incapable of growth.

So far, the institutions have been absolutely right to listen to the Guthrie line. He has generated profits growth from his businesses, he has driven them up-market and he has delivered what the institutions most cherish — a rising trend in earnings and dividends.

Mecca has been assisted in this by its acquisitions, where the timing has been brilliant and full use has been made of the advantages of modern accounting standards.

However, Mr Guthrie may now see a problem developing — his businesses cannot continue to provide the rate of earnings growth which Mecca

has groomed its shareholders to expect. He needs acquisitions and a bigger board on which to manoeuvre the talents of his well-organized and enthusiastic management team.

The institutions understand this and will back him in his expansion plans, but that does not mean that Mr Guthrie will, or even should, take over Pleasurama. He has laid siege to Pleasurama and makes a convincing case for a marriage. It is reasonable to expect that a combined group would perform well, providing there are increasing returns to shareholders. The bid is not ungenerous.

However, although the Pleasurama directors do not make such a smart impression at institutional meetings, they are producing the goods without outside help and it is reasonable to expect that they will continue to do so.

Shareholders backed Pleasurama twice this year, through the rights issue and at the meeting to approve the purchase of Hard Rock — it would be tough on Pleasurama if they now lost their faith.

They should remember that Pleasurama has a portfolio of businesses which is attractive now and will be just as desirable in a year's time. If the Pleasurama board fails to

deliver, they will again be handed a takeover.

Mecca's terms are not so impressive that investors need regard them as a once-only offer.

Regalian Properties

Always wanted a Porsche, but could never afford one? Now is your chance. In a desperate attempt to stimulate demand for prestigious residential property developments in London's Docklands, some property developers and estate agents are throwing in a boy-racer car with their more expensive flats.

The only snag, however, is that the type of person who might be enticed by a Porsche is exactly the one who lacks the necessary confidence and financial muscle to buy the property in the first place.

The archetypal yuppie employed in the financial services sector and paid an inflated salary should rightly still be feeling nervous about his immediate job prospects — the full-out from Big Bang and last October's stock market crash are still working their way through the system.

Regalian Properties, one of

the success stories of the 1980s with its pioneering approach to inner-city development, has a handful of residential developments in Docklands.

Unlike some, however, Regalian primarily operates in the western segment of Docklands, so it is not as vulnerable as other companies which are working deep in uncharted territory. Nevertheless, Regalian's experience from one of its flagship projects, Free Trade Wharf in Wapping, is indicative of what must be happening to others in this niche market-place.

When it is completed, Free Trade Wharf will contain 160 residential units in a development incorporating an original warehouse.

Sales held up in the months after last October but, when interest rates began to rise in the middle of the year, demand dried up.

Uncertainty is the kiss of death to the residential market, and higher interest rates, low levels of activity in the London stock market and speculation that the more traditional housing bubble was about to burst put many people off buying property in a less well-established area.

Speculators buying several flats will also have observed the instability in the market-place and held off from investing until the fuss dies down.

Fortunately, Docklands property represents less than one-fifth of Regalian's overall portfolio while less-vulnerable residential projects, such as the multi-million pound development next to Kensington Palace, are unlikely to be hit by rising interest rates.

Meanwhile, commercial schemes, such as Horse Shoe Court which it sold to the *Financial Times* at a £40 million profit, provide a useful flow of earnings.

Regalian's shares were badly hit last year when the market nose-dived and, despite showing some signs of life, they are still well below previous levels.

However, even taking into account the dullness of the Docklands market, the group should make £35 million in the year to next March, up 54 per cent on 1987-88. On this basis, the shares are selling on a price/earnings ratio of 6.1 times and yielding nearly 5 per cent. The downside seems pretty well protected.

John Lewis expands

John Lewis, the department store group owned by its partners, is opening its first out-of-town store at High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire today.

It is the partnership's twenty-second department store in Britain, and will specialize in furnishings and leisure goods because there are already 10 Waitrose supermarkets in the area. High Wycombe, the largest

GILT-EDGED

Why overfunding is a questionable tactic for Lawson

The Chancellor is being offered so much conflicting advice about overfunding that he could be forgiven for ignoring the topic completely in this Thursday's Mansion House speech. But the speech is the traditional occasion for statements on funding policy, so here are a few questions and answers to help the speech-writers.

Q: What is overfunding?
A: Government finances are healthy. Revenues from taxes, etc. will exceed spending by at least £10 billion this year, and a negligible part of this is needed to finance higher foreign exchange reserves.

Q: Overfunding would mean that not all of this surplus was used to reduce the outstanding stock of gilts (or other debt) held by non-banks.
A: The Government would buy commercial bills, or similar short-term assets, from the banks. That means an increase in the "bill mountain."

Q: What would the rest of the government surplus be used for?
A: The Government would buy commercial bills, or similar short-term assets, from the banks. That means an increase in the "bill mountain."

Q: What is the purpose of overfunding? Does the Government not want to reduce the National Debt as fast as possible?
A: The purpose of overfunding is to restrict money supply growth. The direct effect of overfunding is, as you say, to slow down the rate of decline of the National Debt, leaving the non-banks with more long-term government debt than if there was no overfunding.

Q: Since the non-banks hold more government debt, they have to hold less of something else; in the early 1980s, when overfunding was practised on a large scale, they held fewer bank deposits, so broad measures of money supply like M4 were held down.
A: That did not happen in the early 1980s, because at that time there was little corporate debt issuance and even if the Government had left the field clear by not overfunding, it is unlikely that companies would have responded.

Q: But overfunding means that the non-banks hold an artificially high level of long-term government debt, so surely they'll offset that by holding less long-term corporate debt, not by holding fewer bank deposits?
A: That did not happen in the early 1980s, because at that time there was little corporate debt issuance and even if the Government had left the field clear by not overfunding, it is unlikely that companies would have responded.

Q: But the situation in 1988 is different. There has been a large number of medium-term Eurosterling issues, particularly earlier in the year, and there is a good

prospect of further large issuance if yields come down somewhat from current levels.

Q: So overfunding now is likely to crowd out corporate debt issuance, by holding long-term debt yields at an artificially high level?
A: Yes. In 1988 overfunding, instead of diverting funds from bank deposits into long-term government debt, would divert funds from private long-term debt into gilts. So overfunding now would not reduce money supply.

Q: And what about bank borrowing? If overfunding crowds out corporate debt issuance, would that not tend to increase bank lending to companies?
A: Correct. The reason is that overfunding raises long-term interest rates, so it discourages corporate debt issues, and encourages bank borrowing.

Q: Doesn't overfunding cause big distortions in the money markets?
A: Yes, it drives down the interest rates on bills, sometimes to such a low level that companies can issue bills and deposit the proceeds at the banks for a profit.

Q: What about the new National Savings capital bond announced in the Chancellor's Conservative Party conference speech? That's a change from the recent approach, which has virtually meant the abandonment of National Savings. Surely if he is raising more money through National Savings, he must be planning to overfund?

Q: No. While that is a possible interpretation, another view is that this is really an alternative to overfunding; it is a way of directly diverting personal sector funds out of bank deposits. And the more money raised through National Savings, the more gilts have to be bought in, which drives down yields further and improves the chance of corporate debt issuance.

Given the strength of the arguments against overfunding, the Chancellor is most unlikely to endorse it this Thursday. So the issue for the gilts market is how clearly he indicates that he will be avoiding overfunding. A clear ruling against it would give the economy the full benefit of the Government's sound finances.

Giles Keating
Credit Suisse
First Boston

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Toiletries decline for chemists

By Rosemary Unsworth
Retail Affairs
Correspondent

Britain's chemists are losing out on sales of toiletries to supermarkets and drugstores, which are among the fastest growing retailers this decade.

Spending on toiletries is £1,650 million a year, and chemists used to take the lion's share. That share has now slipped to just over a third, according to a new report from Verdict, the market researcher.

Drugstores, although not allowed to dispense drugs, have increased sales five times as fast as chemists since 1980, and have taken 15 per cent of the toiletries market. "This share will continue to grow," says the report.

Excluding Boots, more than two-thirds of pharmacy sales are from dispensing for the National Health Service. Gross profit margins on this are 20 per cent, 28 per cent on other business. Although the attractions of selling more toiletries are obvious, the report expects pharmacies will continue to lose market share as they are outgunned by supermarkets and grocers.

These two groups provide the main competition, having only recently committed substantial selling space to health and beauty products. They account for 33 per cent of the market, from 20 per cent eight years ago.

The solution for chemists is to expand their health care role and keep patients' medical records and give advice, says Verdict. Present talks on chemists' remuneration with the Department of Health are now critical, as their role as pure retailers is in decline.

Chemists and Drugstores, October 1988. Verdict Research, 112 High Holborn, London, WC1V 6JS. Price £450.

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Famous Grouse could boost Highland to £14.5m pre-tax

TODAY

After reporting excellent first-half results — pre-tax profits were up 19 per cent — Highland Distilleries is believed to have confirmed its impressive growth in the second half.

Analysts have forecast pre-tax profits for the full year of about £14 million to £14.5 million compared with £12 million last year. British sales of The Famous Grouse were up by about 8 per cent compared with a decline of 2 per cent in overall British Scotch whisky sales during the year, giving the brand a market share of more than 11 per cent.

Interims: British Island Airways, Centraway Industries, Edinburgh Investment Trust, Roskill, Sealfield.

Finals: Allied London Properties, Cradley Print, Fundinvest, Highland Distilleries, Spectrum Group.

TOMORROW

Farnell Electronics, the Leeds electrical components distributor, reports interim results and Mr Paul Sharp, an analyst at Robert Fleming Securities, the broker, has pencilled in pre-tax profits of £12 million, compared with £11.2 million last time.

Trading at FEC, an important subsidiary, has been particularly strong, benefiting from buoyant conditions in the components distribution market and sales will have increased by more than 20 per cent. Farnell Instruments has also performed well, but the good sales growth is not expected to produce a similar level of growth in profits.

Mr Sharp thinks profits will have been held back by lower margins because of start-up losses in new operations in West Germany and Australia. Additionally, he expects interest receivable to drop as a result of lower average rates and cash balances.

Prestock Holdings, the resurgent Scottish maker of



Sir Peter Baxendale: Electrical distribution and controls side should show good growth



Garry Runciman: Market is expecting half time pre-tax profits to top £1.7 million

printed circuit boards, predicted pre-tax profits of £1.3 million for the six months to end-July at the time of the £2.85 million convertible preference placing in June.

Analysts will be interested in the progress of the company's recovery — it is a mere six months since Prestwick announced its return to the black after two years of losses.

Interims: British & American Film Holdings, Centraway Trust, Chepstow Racecourse, Chesterfield Properties, Delyn Packaging, Derwent Valley Holdings, Farnell Electronics, First Charlotte Assets Trust, Jackson Group, Miss World Group, Rand Mines Group, Upton (E) and Sons.

Finals: Cramphorn, Highland Electronics Group, Manganese Bronze Holdings, Prestwick Holdings, Synapse Computer Services.

WEDNESDAY

Hawker Siddeley, the international electrical and mechanical engineering where Sir

Peter Baxendale is chairman, reports interim results. This comes hard on the heels of Friday's news of the £93.15 million management buyout of Invergordon Distillers, its 65 per cent-owned subsidiary. Forecasts centre around the £80 million to £82 million pre-tax range compared with £73.1 million.

Hawker has been concentrating on the areas which it thinks has greater growth potential and the figures should show that its electrical distribution and controls division has been a particularly strong performer.

Hawker's financial position remains healthy and the group is highly cash generative, its 1987 operating cash flow of £103 million easily meeting capital requirements and substantially funding £65 million of acquisitions.

Henry Boot, the civil engineering, plant hire, house-building and estate development group, continues to

recover well from the traumas of 1985 when it lost £7.1 million after problems in Hong Kong and Saudi Arabia.

Analysts estimate that it will report a significant pre-tax profit increase at the half-way stage. Mr Eric Brill, an analyst at Batty, Wimpenny & Dawson, the Yorkshire broker, forecasts profits of £1.3 million against £931,000.

Since 1985, Henry Boot has concentrated more on its core domestic activities and this is proving to be particularly fruitful. Both its construction and housebuilding activities performed strongly in the first six months.

Walter Runciman, the shipping, insurance and security group chaired by Mr Garry Runciman, will have to live up to some of the promises made at the time of the failed bid from Telfos, the revitalized engineer, when it announced its half-way figures to end-June.

It forecast a 29 per cent pre-

tax profit rise, to at least £3.8 million and a dividend up by 46 per cent, to at least 9.5p for the full year. The market is expecting it to beat £1.7 million pre-tax, up from £1.32 million, for the first six months, with a payment of 4.4p (3p).

Telfos retains a 28.6 per cent holding, its offer having attracted acceptances from just 11.8 per cent.

Interims: Billingsgate City Securities, Boot (Henry) & Sons, Carlton Industries, City of Oxford Investment Trust, Gresham House, Hawker Siddeley, House of Lerose, Hunting Associated Industries, Runciman (Walter).

Finals: CDFC Trust, Clydesdale Investment Trust, Klark-Teknik, TP Australia Investment Trust.

THURSDAY

Interims: Alpine Group, BMSS, Estates and Agency Holdings, European Colour, Davies & Newman Holdings, Gerrard & National Holdings, Scottish Mortgage & Trust, Sharp and Law, Siam Fund (Cayman), Silvermines Group, TDS Circuits.

Finals: East Rand Gold and Uranium, International City Holdings, Tottenham Hotspur.

FRIDAY

Revenues should show good growth for the full year at LWT (Holdings), the London weekend television contractor — there was a 16.5 per cent rise at half-way — but, unfortunately, the same is likely to be true of costs, despite some tough talk from the management.

So, the leisure team at County NatWest WoodMac, the broker, is going for £24 million pre-tax for the year to July 31, only a slight increase on last time's £20.03 million. In the light of the decision to sell the 6.7 per cent stake in Superchannel and its 68 per cent of Page & Moy, the travel company, analysts will be pushing for a clear indication of the group's long-term development strategy — especially given the large amounts of cash LWT is reckoned to have in the bank.

Interims: English & International Trust, Free State Gold Group, Ocean Wilsons (Holdings), Transvaal Group of Gold Mining Companies, Value and Income Trust.

Finals: Free State Consolidated Gold Mines, GR (Holdings), Lowland Investment, LWT (Holdings), Orange Free State Investments, Welkom Gold Holdings.

Martin Waller and Geoffrey Foster

Strong argument for a Budget boost to savings

Last week in Brighton Nigel Lawson defiantly promised that the Budget tax cuts would not be reversed. He knows his conference quite well by now, and they loved it. But it is likely to be a different story when the next Budget comes round. If the economic situation is anything like it is now, then he will be hard put to it to make any net tax cuts.

By then, it is true, today's high interest rates may have reined the economy back and fiscal expansion may not look as inappropriate as it does at the moment. But Mr Lawson is clearly not expecting instant results, and in Brighton he went out of his way to point out that economic measures take time to have an effect in a sophisticated economy and that interest rates will have to stay high for quite a while.

How, then, can he make any progress towards his re-stated target of a 20p basic rate of income tax and press forward with tax reform in the several areas where he still has ambitions? He will not want to produce a damp squib for what will probably be his last Budget.

The answer must lie partly in combining further cuts in rates with strategies for clawing the money back in other ways. The 1984 Budget was probably the most radical of Mr Lawson's five, yet it did little to cut the net burden of taxation. There is still much scope for cutting out tax breaks and redistributing the proceeds to the population at large through lower rates.

Some of this is fairly straightforward and depends primarily on the availability of political courage. No doubt there will be another substantial reduction in the tax upholstery furnished to company cars. Mr Lawson could decide to go further and strip it out altogether.

More difficult is the matter of national insurance contributions. There is a strong case in principle for aligning the rate structure of NICs with that of income tax, and in particular removing the upper earnings limit for employees as has already been done for employers. The difficulty lies in mitigating the losses suffered by those with income above the earnings limit but below the threshold for higher rate income tax.

But the most interesting area is the taxation of savings. Promotion of the share-owning democracy to complement the property-owning one has been a prominent theme of Mr Lawson's Budgets. If ever there was a case for encouraging savings it is now when the savings ratio has fallen to an all-time low and one of the main worries is the strength of consumer spending.

If a tax relief could be devised that stimulated new saving, then it would have the great virtue of cutting taxes without adding inflationary demand to the economy. As well as adding to saving overall it would transfer saving from the

public sector to the private sector by shrinking the Budget surplus while increasing investment in shares. That would also be no bad thing. With a prospective Budget surplus of £10 billion this year it is going to be quite hard to explain to people the need for a further fiscal tightening next year.

Mr Lawson has already shown himself sensitive to the desirability of boosting saving, even if he believes that ultimately the savings rate will rise anyway, helped by the rise in interest rates. In his speech to the conference he announced a new National Savings capital bond designed "to encourage the savings habit."

The Chancellor explained, or at least rationalized, his approach to obtaining greater equality of tax treatment between institutional and personal saving in his pamphlet on tax reform earlier this year. "To some extent, we have levelled down... to some extent, we have levelled up," he said. Some of the tax privileges of institutional saving, such as life assurance premium relief, have been removed, while new tax advantages like the personal equity plans have been introduced for personal investment in shares.

Just as a savings boost would yield economic benefits, removal of some of the tax reliefs enjoyed by the pension funds would raise objections, quite apart from the other difficulties of making a move in this area. But it would be possible to introduce a Green Paper on reforms to be introduced later when macro-economic circumstances might be more propitious.

There is also a particular case this year — though there is no indication that it is yet accepted by the Prime Minister — for a further limiting of mortgage interest relief. Apart from the argument of tax neutrality, a cut in tax relief might help to restrain house prices. The Chancellor took care last week to heap praise on Bernard Jenkin, son of the former Cabinet minister Patrick Jenkin, who in the final speech from the floor in the conference's economic debate argued that mortgage interest relief at the higher rate of tax and for other than first-time buyers represented "middle-class state dependency at its worst." It seems unlikely that this contribution was entirely accidental.

Next year's Budget is certain to be cautious in setting the Budget balance. Debt repayment has its own modest political return in terms of lighter financial burdens on the next generation. But a cautious approach to the big numbers need not imply a dull Budget. There is still plenty of tax reform to do and no sign that Mr Lawson has lost his interest in doing it.

Rodney Lord
Economics Editor

CWS rises by a third to £12m in first half

By Derek Harris, Industrial Editor

Profits at the Co-operative Wholesale Society (CWS) rose by a third to £12 million in the first half of this year.

Turnover was £1.1 billion, up more than 3 per cent, which reflected a number of disposals. But Mr Jim Mason, the CWS chairman, said the consolidated trading profits — struck before interest and tax — were a strong sign of positive progress in sharpening the CWS trading profile.

Sales at CWS retail interests rose 15 per cent to just over

£240 million, thanks to new store openings, refurbishments and extended hours.

Sales in the CWS funerals division rose 24 per cent to £18.5 million. Its expanding travel agency chain saw sales rise 10 per cent to £30.7 million.

Among new corporate members which have been accepted is the Stanley Co-operative Society in the Falkland Islands which the CWS has supplied for more than 35 years.

Taiwan raises margin limits to help market

Taipei (Reuters) — Taiwan's finance ministry has announced increases in margin limits, and asked institutions and large market players to enter the Taipei stock exchange, in an attempt to prevent it crashing further.

The ministry's monetary department said it would simplify ways for investors to mortgage stocks in banks as collateral.

Despite the measures, which came into effect on Saturday, the stock market slid for the 14th consecutive day. The weighted index shed

177.19 points to close at 6,251.56. The market started sliding on September 29, in reaction to a government announcement on reimposing tax on capital gains from share sales.

In an attempt to end the fall, the ministry has lifted its ceiling on tax-free profits to 10 million Taiwan dollars (£198,210) a year from 3 million, and lowered current tax on individual share transactions to 0.15 from 0.3 per cent. Eleven state-run banks will extend one-year low interest loans.

Nokia 'will consider' cell-phone float

By Colin Narbrough

Nokia, Finland's biggest publicly quoted company, will seriously consider floating off its mobile phone division, the current world leader — if this month's flotation of Rascal Telecom, the Vodafone group, proves a success.

Nokia-Mobira has 13.5 per cent of the world's £450 million cellular telephone market. Its share of the fast-

growing British market is 9 to 10 per cent, but it expects its recently launched Autoline carphone to take this into the target 12-13 per cent range next year, putting the company in third place.

Nokia-Mobira's worldwide growth last year was 28 per cent, giving it net sales of about £145 million, of which overseas operations accounted for 74 per cent. Pre-

tax profits for the high-tech electronics to rubber and paper conglomerate were 77 per cent up at a record £158 million on 17 per cent higher net sales of £1.8 billion. Subsequent acquisitions should take this close to £3 billion.

Mr Kari Kairamo, Nokia's chairman and chief executive, this week unveils results for the first eight months which analysts expect to be de-

pressed by the spate of acquisitions the group has made in the past year.

Mr Kairamo said his board had already discussed the possibility of floating Nokia-Mobira in the wake of Rascal Telecom, although it had no current plans for flotation.

But he made clear that no part of Nokia was "holly". "We're ready to sell almost anything, if the price is right."

Cut-back at County NatWest

County NatWest, the securities house owned by NatWest Bank, handed out redundancy notices to 26 members of its staff on Friday, effective immediately. All the staff concerned were employed by the company's Hong Kong securities operation, County NatWest Securities Asia, with two of those shown the door based in London and the rest resident in Hong Kong. They learned of their fate after the close of business on the Hong Kong stock market — during the morning, British time. "County NatWest Securities Asia has been reshaping its operation and has reduced its staff by 26 because of the decline in demand for trading," a spokeswoman for the bank confirmed. "But it still employs a substantial staff of about 80 people." The job losses were, she said, across the board in terms of sales, research and back office, and involved only individuals of junior and middle rank. There are apparently no plans for further redundancies there, nor in the bank's other overseas offshoots. "New York and Tokyo are both being expanded, and Australia is flourishing."

● A County NatWest Securities director, Alastair Gunn-Furber, has resigned. Although he specialised in the Hong Kong market, company sources stressed his departure had nothing to do with the aforementioned job losses. Gunn-Furber is leaving "to pursue other interests".

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

New station for King?

Although a frequent visitor to Number 10 and a confidant of its present inhabitant, Lord King, the British Airways chairman, has, it seems, been hedging his political bets. At the recent Labour Party Conference in Blackpool — he always goes to both it and the Tory conference — he learned, however, with more than a little surprise, that a Labour Government would not be averse to cultivating close links with an arch-Conservative.

Fun-raiser

More than 120 items ranging from a voucher for a Barbour jacket to four seats at Glyndebourne and a pair of airline tickets to Canada, will be auctioned off at The Mansion House Fair tomorrow. The charity event, in aid of

Action Research for the Crippled Child, will be hosted by Sir Greville Spratt, Lord Mayor of London. The fair begins with a buffet lunch at 1 (am tickets £20 each) with the auction — tickets £40, to include a champagne reception and buffet — from 5-8.30pm. Tickets are available from Nick Brigstocke, at 82W, on (01) 623-7442.

Well-heeled

It seems that not all stock-brokers have been forced to count the pennies. A Spanish boot-maker in Tooting, south-west London, has been proudly displaying an exceptionally handsome pair of shoes, handmade from some form of reptile skin and expected to sell for as much as £400. The customer turned out to be Nigel Hughes, the dapper head of market-making at House Govett.

Last of the phew

The former Scrimgeour retail team recently installed at Goldman Sachs and currently having to burn the midnight oil, studying for the Series 7 examination set by the New York Stock Exchange, will be far from heartened to learn that they will probably be the last British brokers to have to undergo such an ordeal. They must pass the exam in order to satisfy the legal requirements imposed on their new American bosses, and become registered as general securities representatives. However, after learning of the plight of Messrs Deacon, Morris, Dorgan and Willis in the City Diary last month, Tim Nicholson, senior examinations manager with The Securities Association, tells me that the TSA and NYSE are on the brink of reaching an agreement which will simplify the gruelling six-hour test — comprising 250 multi-choice questions — for British brokers. "After lengthy discussions the NYSE has agreed that it would be examination overkill to make TSA's registered representatives go through all that," he says. "TSA's own representatives examination is pretty comprehensive, too." Instead, a 90-question test will, he says, soon be made available, covering securities products, rules and sales practices unique to the US. Brokers who need to be registered for "esoteric little things" such as municipal bonds will, however, still have to sit the full Series 7 exam.

Carol Leonard

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*Mondays dep. 06.45 arrive 07.25. Other times are Monday-Friday.



BRITISH MIDLAND

USM REVIEW

Employee share plans may double says survey

By Our Industrial Editor

Employee share ownership plans now cover nearly 12,000 employees in 10 companies and the workforce figure could double by the year's end.

The forecast comes from *Industrial Relations Review and Report* in the first detailed study of Esops. These involve setting up a trust which buys an equity stake in a company on behalf of its employees, and the shares are gradually released to them.

Esops have been pioneered by the trade union bank, Unity Trust, and tax rule changes are possible, which could encourage their wider use. Some prospective Esop schemes were running into taxation and legal uncertainties, the survey showed.

However, the companies operating Esops reported important improvements in industrial relations and financial performance. Esops so far have been made up of seven management buyouts, a full employee buyout, a start-up and an employee purchase of an equity stake.

Industrial Relations Review and Report, £8.50 single issues from Industrial Relations Services, 18-20 Highbury Place, London N5 1QP.

Sunset & Vine's £3.7m valuation

By Michael Clark and Carol Leonard

Dealings start tomorrow in the shares of Sunset & Vine, the production company which makes programmes for television, commerce and industry.

Gilbert Elliott, the broker, is placing 970,000 shares — 21 per cent of the issued share capital — at 80p each with its clients. This will value the company at £3.7 million.

Of this, 345,000 shares are being sold by shareholders. They expect to raise £250,000 from the placing. The remaining 625,000 new shares should accrue a further £330,000.

Mr Colin Frewen, the founder and chief executive, says that this will provide working capital. But he also has his eye on a number of acquisitions in related areas — notably in Australia and New Zealand. He does not want to diversify but he has been looking at related areas, including sponsorship, and he wants to become more involved in music videos.

The group has already gained experience in this field, completing a number of one-hour specials for television with Fleetwood Mac, Bryan Ferry and Roxy Music.

Mr Frewen decided on a quotation on the USM rather than a listing on the big board because he thought it was a better medium for the company. He said: "You can easily

get lost in the main market." He added: "We're not like Cheerleader or Parallel. We have to increase our platform. We are having to deal with 90 broadcasters around the world. It takes a lot of organization."

Sunset & Vine has produced a number of entertainment programmes for the independent television companies, both here and in the US, including *Hollywood or Bust*, *Julie Andrews* and *The Muppets* and documentaries such as *The History of North Sea Oil* and *The Lifting of the Mary Rose*.

One of its more lucrative contracts is the *Gillette World Sport Special*, a fortnightly, one-hour television series.

The five-man production team at Sunset & Vine is continually coming up with fresh ideas for programmes and the group now tries to ensure a smooth roll-on of its contracts. In the past, start-up costs and contract breaks have meant a volatile profits performance.

In 1986, pre-tax profits fell from £274,000 to £88,000 before recovering to £195,000 in 1987. Last year, the group turned in £471,000, producing earnings per share of 7.12p.

Sunset & Vine comes to the USM on a p/e ratio of 11.2.

Tay Homes, the Leeds housebuilder, which last week



Colin Frewen: greater involvement planned in music videos

announced pre-tax profits up 70 per cent at £5.15 million and earnings per share 36 per cent higher at 47.2p, is applying for a full listing. It has also announced a two-for-one scrip issue.

Panmure Gordon, its own broker, seems pleased with the group's performance and has

scheme is also paying some quick and rich dividends. The YHT agreed to buy 42 flats at Tay's Bridgewater Court development, providing it reached the minimum subscription level of £1.5 million.

The YHT has now reached its target and is buying the flats which Tay was offering at an average of £60,000 each. Tay closed 2p higher at 396p on Friday.

Meanwhile, the USM is making news itself today. The USM Magazine, the investment periodical which concentrates on USM stocks, has bought — for an undisclosed sum from WI Carr, the broker — the share index which puts the USM on a par with the FT-Actuaries indices. It is calculated in the same way as the FT-Actuaries All Share Index.

Mr Ian Restall, the editor and publisher, plans to market the USM Magazine Index and says that it is destined to be regarded as the standard measure of share price performance on the USM. He said: "It will be updated on a daily basis."

It is the first acquisition made by The USM Magazine. Mr Restall explained: "It is a significant step in the development of both the USM and the magazine."

At the close of business on Friday, the USM Index stood at 112.92, up 12.9 per cent from its base date on January 1, 1988. During that same

period, the FT-Actuaries All Share Index rose by 9.28 per cent. That other enterprising venture, the USM ratings table operated by Deloitte Haskins & Sells, the chartered accountants, showed Crown Communications, the broadcasting group which was introduced to the USM in June, entering the table for the first time and going straight to number two. The company, which engineered a reverse takeover to gain its USM quotation, has seen its shares improve from the introduction price of 103p to 171p at the end of September, when the table was computed.

Chartsearch, the publishing group, held on to its number one place, however, despite some slippage from its peak of 85p two months ago.

Johnson Fry, a specialist in smaller companies and the private investor, last week launched its *Smaller Company Assured Tenancy File* — to be known as Scat — which is the first complete practical guide to BES Assured Tenancy for the small investor.

The file, which costs £250, provides a complete dossier on all aspects of setting up, operating and administering such a company.

For further information contact Johnson Fry, 36 Jermyn Street, London, SW1 6DT.

● USM Prices, page 30

Attack on HK insider dealing

From Stephen Leather Hong Kong

The Hong Kong government is to bring in tough sanctions against insider dealing — which is not illegal in the Crown Colony — before the end of the year.

The Governor, Sir David Wilson, said that laws currently being drafted would mean that anyone convicted of trading on the basis of inside information would be forced to pay back any profits made, be fined up to three times the value of the profits, and be banned from serving as a company director.

At present, the only penalty for trading on insider dealing is to be named in public by an Insider Dealing Tribunal.

While the government is preparing its tough approach to insider dealing, the stock exchange is preparing to tighten up its listing requirements.

The exchange's management committee, which will today be replaced by a new Stock Exchange Council, has drawn up a consultative draft which will make it harder for firms to obtain, and keep, a public listing.

The committee wants to double the minimum market capitalization from HK\$50 million (£3.8 million) to HK\$100 million and to insist on a five-year trading record.

The committee also wants to remove shell companies. If any sale of assets results in a company which is left with no assets other than cash, it will be given six months to acquire a suitable business or face losing its listing.

The colony's stockbrokers meet today to elect 16 members to their ruling Council. All 16 have been vetted by the Governor.

Other significant developments include the setting up of a new regulatory authority, the Securities and Futures Commission. Legislation for the new watchdog will be introduced to the Legislative Council before the end of 1988.

A new paperless clearing system is to be introduced in early 1990 and the settlement period will be extended from its present 24 hours, which is virtually impossible to achieve, to five days.

PRESELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT FOR UPGRADING AND PERIODIC ROAD MAINTENANCE WORK

The Ministry of Public Works of the Democratic Republic of Madagascar invites bidders to submit preselection applications for tender offers on the upgrading and periodic maintenance work of the Vito Highway Project funded by the International Development Association with co-financed Swiss funding supervised by this Association.

The work concerns paved roads, earthen roads and agricultural feeder roads. Only firms or groups from Switzerland, Taiwan or World Bank member countries shall be allowed to submit applications for the present preselection invitation.

Applications shall be submitted by 5 p.m. Madagascar time on December 1st, 1988.

Preselection specifications indicating the information to be provided in order to participate in the present preselection invitation, as well as the tender specifications, can be consulted at:

- MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS - ANOSY - ANTANANARIVO
- EMBASSY OF THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF MADAGASCAR abroad
- EMBASSIES OR REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES OF SWITZERLAND, TAIWAN AND WORLD BANK MEMBER COUNTRIES IN ANTANANARIVO - MADAGASCAR

Firms with references and sound experience in this field and who are interested in the present preselection invitation may withdraw the preselection file from the:

- MINISTRY OF PUBLIC WORKS Office No 320 - ANOSY - ANTANANARIVO 101
- Telex No 22346
- Telephone No 211.31

EEC rules 'pose threat' to tobacco trade

By Derek Harris Industrial Editor

European tobacco manufacturers, including those in Britain, have warned the Council of Ministers in Brussels of severe economic repercussions likely to arise from draft European Commission directives on cigarette tar ceilings and pack labelling.

It looks as if there will be a battle over the directives, which are aimed at producing an EEC approach to tobacco regulations from 1992. It means the main battleground on tobacco and health is shifting to Brussels, threatening the system of regulation by voluntary agreements which has characterized British and other markets.

The tobacco manufacturers are arguing that if the directives are adopted severe effects would be felt among the 1.7 million people in the EEC whose living depends on tobacco, from factory to retail shop. They see Mrs Thatcher's stand against too great centralization of powers in Brussels as in the industry's favour.

Tar yields of cigarettes in Britain are claimed by the industry now to be down to about 13.5 milligrams on average but yields still range from five milligrams or less to 20 or more, with a number of popular brands at about 17. The draft directives propose absolute ceilings of 15 milligrams in 1992 and 12 by 1995.

The directives also aim to bring in twin health warnings on every cigarette pack, with single warnings on other products such as cigars and pipe smoking mixtures.

Nicotine content would also be displayed. The new tar

yield ceilings for British manufacturers would in 1992 outlaw 18 per cent of current production and, as the ceiling dropped further, in 1995 would preclude 82 per cent.

British manufacturers have been reducing tar yields but they fear the swift change implied by the new ceilings would disrupt the cigarette market, with consumers unlikely to accept such rapid reductions because as tar yields go down so does the taste or satisfaction element.

The biggest segment of the British market lies in the 10 to 15 milligram sector, categorized as low to middle tar, which accounts for 67 per cent against 47 per cent at the beginning of 1987.

The middle tar sector of 15 to 18 milligrams currently has 17 per cent of the market and low tar, of 10 milligrams or

less, accounts for 15.6 per cent. The low tar sector has been largely static for some time although there has been some sign of its growing again.

The marketing problems would arise against a background where British cigarette sales have been sliding, having reduced by a quarter since 1979 bringing factory closures and job losses. Sales over the last 12 months have been static although the British manufacturers — Gallaher and Hanson's Imperial Tobacco are the two biggest — have faced the problem of a growth in imports which now account for about 9 per cent of the British retail market.

The effects of the suggested ceilings in some European markets would be more severe than in Britain with the 1995 levels threatening all Danish production, 98 per cent in

Greece and 95 per cent in Spain.

On average in the EEC the proposed 1992 ceiling would hit 46 per cent of production and the later ceiling 83 per cent.

There are worries over how far the regulations will affect tobacco growing in countries like Italy, Greece and Spain.

Greece is a big producer of oriental-style tobaccos and, with about 97,000 farming families involved, is already asking for EEC compensation if the directives go through.

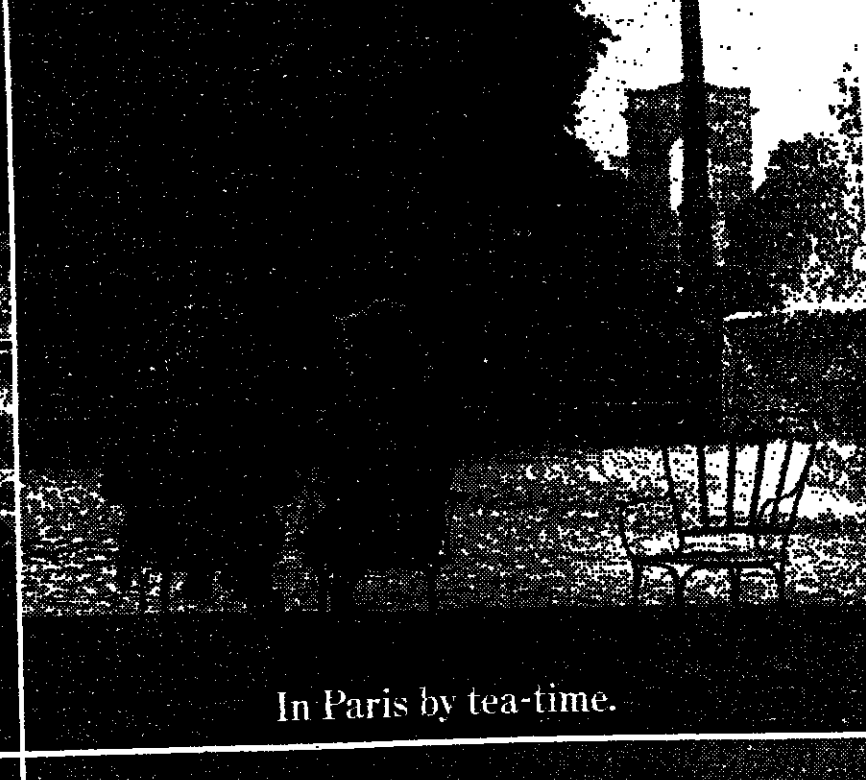
Types of tobacco grown in countries like Greece have relatively high tar yields and if lower-tar plant strains proved to be unadaptable to the climatic conditions the only chance of maintaining production would be to sell where regulations are less tight such as parts of the Third World.



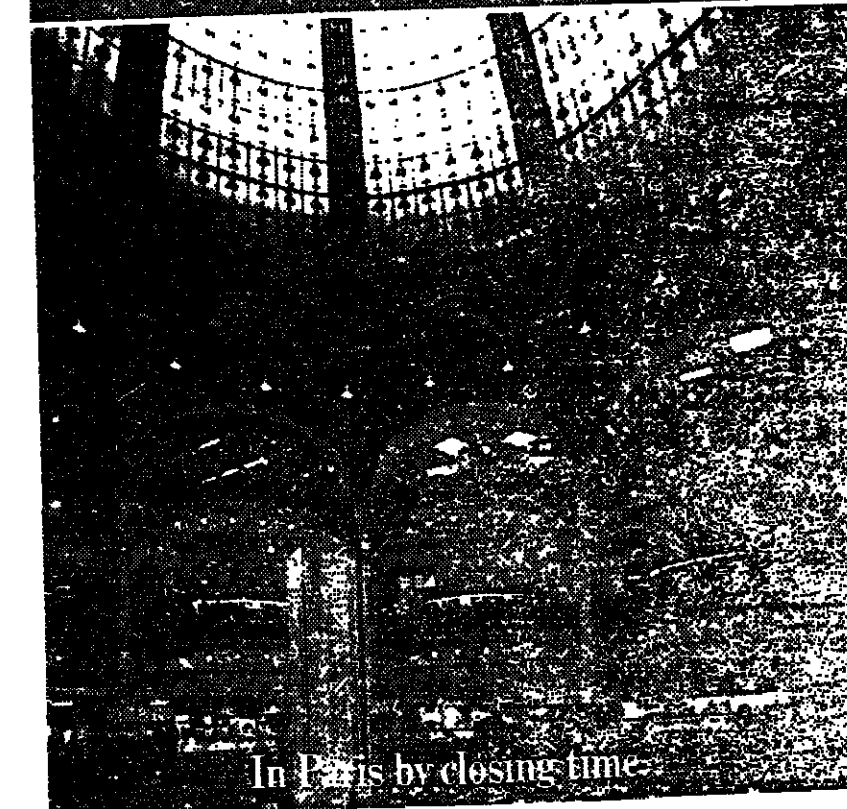
In Paris by breakfast time.



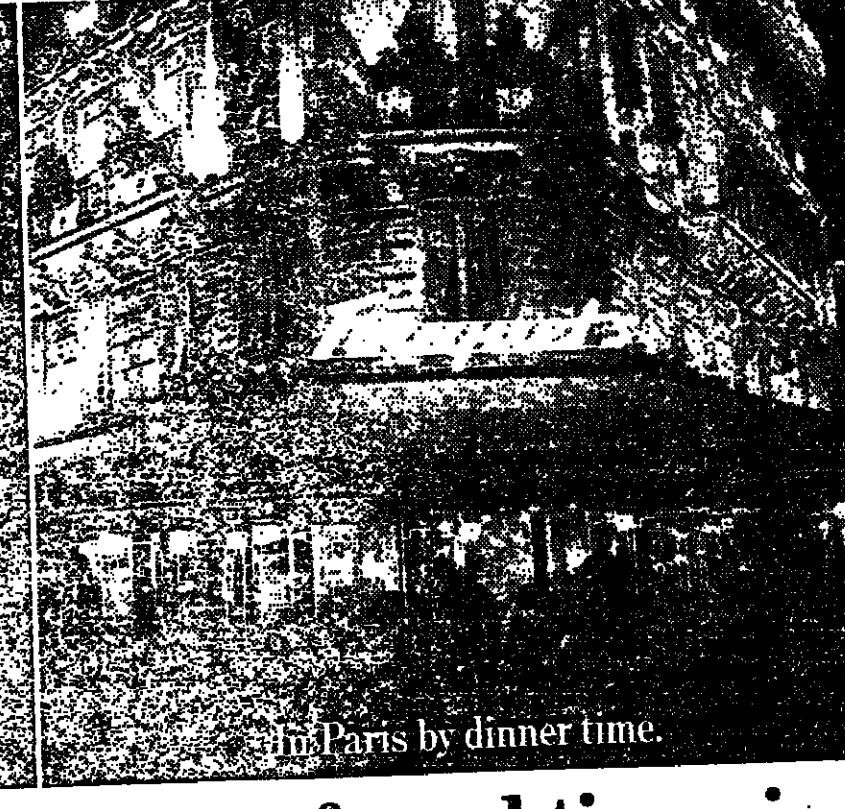
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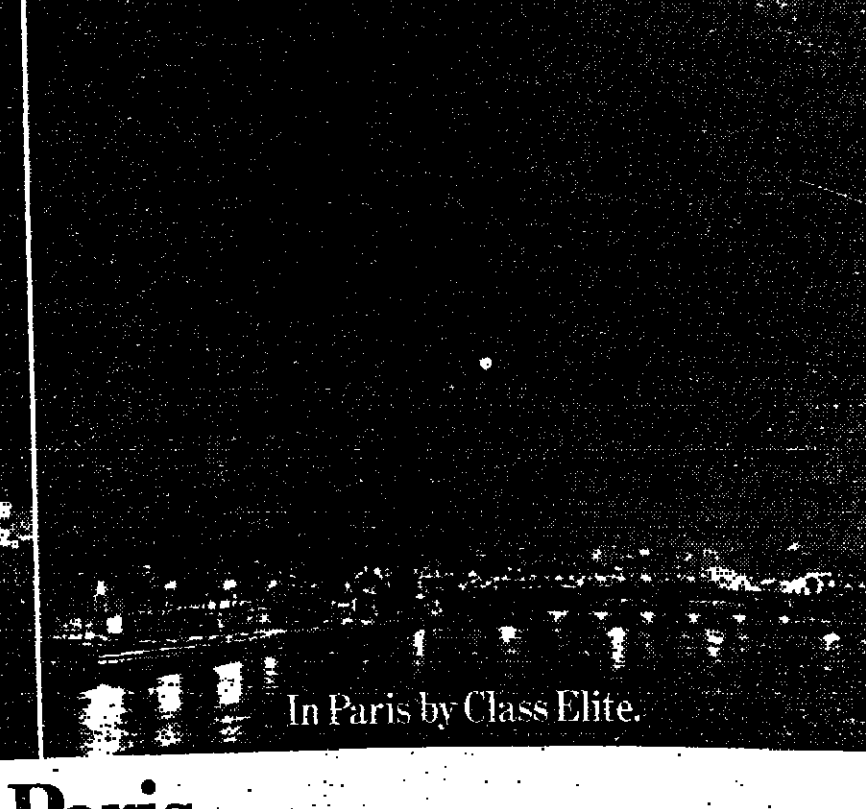
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'A' shares	HKS 17,800
'B' shares	3,085

In a letter to shareholders from the Chairman dated 6th September 1988, it was announced that the directors had declared interim dividends on 28th August 1988 in respect of the year ending 31st December 1988 of 23.0c per 'A' share and 4.6c per 'B' share and that the directors had resolved that, as to 22.0c per 'A' share and 4.4c per 'B' share, these dividends should take the form of scrip dividends to be satisfied by the issue of additional 'A' and additional 'B' shares respectively, but that shareholders should be able to elect to receive these dividends in cash in respect of all or part of their shareholdings, and as to 1.0c per 'A' share and 0.2c per 'B' share these dividends would be paid in cash to the shareholders. It was further announced that entitlements to fractional shares would be disregarded and the benefit thereof would accrue to the Company.

Applying the average closing prices noted above, the number of new shares which shareholders will receive in respect of their existing shares on the record date of 30th September 1988, for which elections to receive cash are not deposited with the Registrars in Hong Kong or with the Registrars' Agents in the United Kingdom by 24th October 1988 will be calculated as follows:

For 'A' shares:			
Number of new 'A' shares to be received	=	Number of existing 'A' shares	x 0.22
			17,800

For 'B' shares:			
Number of new 'B' shares to be received	=	Number of existing 'B' shares	x 0.044
			3,085

and will be rounded down to the nearest whole number of new shares, fractional entitlements being disregarded. The new shares will rank pari passu with the existing shares of the Company except that they will not rank for the interim dividends in respect of the year ending 31st December 1988.

Certificates for the new 'A' and 'B' shares in respect of the scrip dividends, together with the dividend warrants in connection with the cash dividends of 1.0c per 'A' share and 0.2c per 'B' share, will be despatched to shareholders on 31st October 1988.

By order of the Board
JOHN SWIRE & SONS (H.K.) LIMITED
Secretaries

Hong Kong
17th October 1988

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Swire House, Hong Kong

Industry faces a tough task at home and abroad

The darker side of Britain's boom

The consumer boom has sucked in imports, sending Britain's trade deep into deficit. David Smith

examines whether this is a temporary problem — or a symptom of a more serious long-term malady.

Is Britain's trade deficit simply the temporary result of the consumer boom, or does it represent a more deep-seated problem for the economy? The answer to this question will ultimately determine the prosperity of everyone in Britain during the next few years.

The key question on the deficit is whether it is only a flash in the pan, or the result of a steady decline in British competitiveness, and a steady increase in import penetration, stretching over a long period.

In the case of consumer goods, imports appear to offer both price and non-price advantages. A survey conducted by Gallup for the Think British Campaign earlier this month confirmed that consumer preferences have not swung back in favour of British goods, with the by now traditional preferences remaining for Japanese electronic equipment, German cars and so on.

More fundamentally, imports are rising because, often, there is no British product available. All too often, British-sounding names for television sets conceal a label that says Made in Japan. For a wide range of products, imports are not a choice, they are the only choice.

In 1979, Britain had a trade surplus in engineering of £2 billion. This year, according to the Engineering Employers' Federation, the deficit will be about £8.5 billion, next year nearly £10 billion.

"The biggest reason of all for this is the recession of the early 1980s," said Mr Ian Thompson, economic adviser to the EEF. "If we hadn't had North Sea oil and the strong pound in the early 1980s many more engineering companies would have remained in business."

"There are two messages in the present situation. The first is that nothing can be done to produce more export growth and import substitution in the short term. The second is that it is inconceivable that the gap left by North Sea oil can be closed without a major contribution from industries like engineering."

In other words, industry not only has to slow down the process of import penetration, but it must start clawing back the home market from

foreign firms, while maintaining a strong export performance.

Import penetration in a wide range of manufactured goods has been increasing steadily during the 1980s. In manufacturing as a whole, imports accounted for more than 35 per cent of home demand last year.

These figures may overstate the position in some sectors, notably those where a large proportion of output is exported. But the general view holds that throughout manufacturing industry, importers have claimed a larger share of the British market at a time when Britain's share of world markets has been slowly declining.

Most disturbingly, import penetration has been greatest in high-technology industries such as office machinery and data processing equipment, where imports are virtually equivalent to the size of the British market, and electronic and electrical engineering, where the imports' share has risen from slightly more than a third in the early 1980s to just under a half last year.

The result of this has been an increase in the trade deficit on many manufactured goods, and in some cases a shift from surplus to large deficit.

The chart shows where the trade deficit is concentrated. In the January-August period, there was a deficit on vehicles, principally cars, of nearly £4.4 billion, more than a quarter of the total trade deficit.

"At the end of the day, the trade deficit on cars is down to management decisions made at Ford and General Motors," said Mr Bob Barber, motor industry analyst at James Capel, the broker. "If they decide to supply from Continental plants rather than domestic production there will be a deficit."

Ford, for its part, cites a steady increase in the proportion of British demand supplied

TRADE BALANCE - SELECTED PRODUCTS			
(£ million)	1986	1987	Jan-August 1988
Vehicles	-3,985	-3,980	-4,350
Ford	-1,872	-1,884	-2,780
Raw materials, excluding fuels	-2,252	-2,257	-2,222
Paper, paperboard	-1,678	-1,687	-1,647
Chemicals	-1,128	-1,150	-1,461
Textile yarn, fabrics	-1,451	-1,611	-1,140
Electrical machinery	-1,003	-1,298	-783
Office machinery, data processing equipment	-890	-948	-725
Non-ferrous metals	-543	-540	-602
Footwear	-513	-584	-594
Telecommunications equipment	-1,000	-1,284	-718
Other metal manufactures	-180	-347	-379
Animal and vegetable oils	-280	-384	-177
Iron and steel	-70	-28	-43
Power generating machinery	1,014	728	488
Chemicals	2,532	2,183	1,220
Oil	1,747	1,973	1,573

Britain's current account was in deficit by £9.2 billion. This compares with the highest figure previously recorded for any full year of £3.2 billion, back in 1974.

The deficit this year has been made up of a massive £14.6 billion deficit on trade in goods other than oil, partly offset by a £1.8 billion surplus on oil and a £3.6 billion surplus on services such as banking, insurance and finance, together with interest, profit and dividends from overseas and transfers such as payments to the European Community budget.

And in these three categories the story of Britain's shift into substantial current account deficit — which the Chancellor admits will be £11 billion-£12 billion this year, and the City expects £14 billion-£15 billion — is told.

Exports have held up relatively well this year, in spite of the rise in the value of sterling and the potential for switching sales to the buoyant home market. In August non-oil exports were valued at £6.3 billion, close to their all-time high.

Imports, however, have risen strongly. In July the value of non-oil imports stood at a remarkable £9.1 billion. They slipped back to £8.3 billion in August but in the latest three months they were 16 per cent up on a year earlier, twice as fast as the rate of growth of exports over the same period.

Sharply rising imports and good but less strongly rising exports have therefore contributed to a widening of the non-oil trade balance.

In the first half of the 1980s, Britain's balance of payments problems was removed by North Sea oil. Now, while oil trade is in surplus, it can no longer be relied upon to bail us out.

In 1985, the surplus on oil reached a peak of £8.1 billion. Declining output and prices halved the surplus the following year and this year, exacerbated by the Piper Alpha disaster in July, the surplus will be down to about £2.5 billion. Barred a sharp rise in world oil prices — which would damage the economy in other ways — there is no real prospect of a return to the large oil surpluses of a few years ago.

The Chancellor has put forward two main points on the balance of payments position. The first is that it is a temporary result of the boom in consumer spending and the accompanying fall in savings of the past year or so. As such, it is a reflection of private behaviour, which will correct itself, and is distinct from the deficits of the 1970s, which were accompanied by large public sector deficits. His second point is that even if the deficit is around for a long time, confidence in Britain is high and there will be no problem financing the deficit in the long term.

This view has its critics, notably in the City, but it also has its supporters. "These things can go away as quickly as they arrive," said Mr Geoffrey Dicks, economist at the London Business School. "If at the end of the day it is seen to have been a temporary response of the private sector, then that is fine. The problem would disappear if we went back to normal savings behaviour."

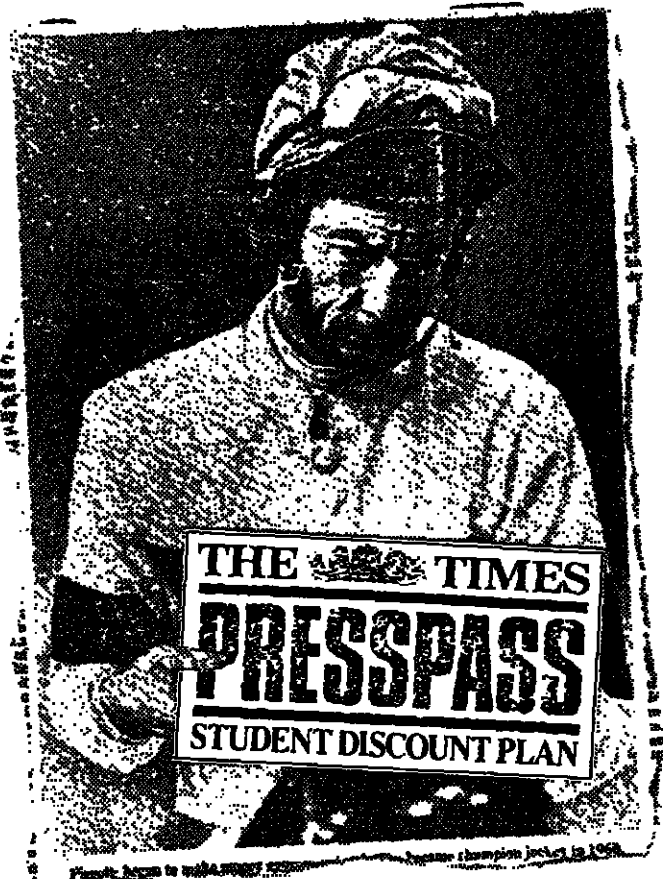
Others however see the present deficit as more deep-rooted, as "structural" rather than simply a reflection of the temporary strength of demand in the economy.

"The problem that was with us in the pre-oil era has remained, and superimposed on it has been the great consumption boom," said Mr Britton of the NIESR. "It doesn't make any difference whether it is publicly or privately generated. The expansion of credit has worked like a tax cut. The deficit is only sustainable as long as the foreign exchange market is prepared to give us the benefit of the doubt."

The Chancellor's actions to cool demand in the economy are expected to have an impact on the balance of payments, although he has warned that it may take time for this to occur.

Even if there is a temporary narrowing of the current account deficit as a result of this, however, the problem is likely to remain in the longer term. The task at hand is to eliminate large and rising deficits on a wide range of goods. Ultimately, this may only be achieved if Britain grows at a slower rate than competitor countries for a long period.

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THE TIMES

NFC study suggests £700m after float

By Graham Searjeant

The National Freight Consortium should be valued at more than £700 million after it is floated on the Stock Exchange in three months, a new study by Mr Richard Hannah of Phillips & Drew suggests.

The employee-controlled transport, travel and distribution group has an internal market for its shares, which values it at £560 million. But Mr Hannah expects NFC to raise £100 million in a rights issue to clear nearly all its debt when its shares are introduced to the Exchange, probably in January.

He also argues that the company's strong trading performance should earn it a higher rating than industry rivals Christian Salvesen and Transport Development Group (TDG).

P&D, using internal management estimates, forecasts NFC profits will rise from £47 million to £53 million in the year ending this month. This would raise the shares at 11.9 times earnings at their current internal price of 175p. On P&D forecasts, this is a higher rating than TDG but lower than Salvesen.

NFC should continue to deliver above-average growth of earnings and dividends next year, Mr Hannah suggests. It has a strong transport business in contract hire and truck rental under the BRS name, expected to make £23 million in 1987-88.

Other main contributors to profit are property development and NFC International (mainly transport and warehousing in the US).

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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 2000; 283: 2689-2695.

10

EDUCATION

Edited by David Tytler

Learning through dialogue

Russian academics and students are hungry for contacts, writes David Tytler

Now that the dust has settled on Kenneth Baker's whirlwind tour of the Soviet Union, the real test of it will be to see if anything is actually achieved. The good relations established between the Education Secretary's team and its Soviet hosts will soon sour if the promises and intentions of either side fail to be realized.

The problem for the Russians is their enormous bureaucracy. Previous exchange agreements and Anglo-Soviet ventures have been set off full of enthusiasm and then simply run into the ground. In the land of the abacus, everything waits for the right form to be filled, often in triplicate.

The young, as represented by the students at Moscow State University, of which Mikhail Gorbachev is a graduate, and Novosibirsk, in the heart of Siberia, grasp every crumb from the outside world. Their questions to Mr Baker ranged from the pay of a Cabinet minister compared with that of a teacher, to the health of the Queen, and his perceptions of Mrs Thatcher both as a politician and a woman.

But the first question at every



The wistful look: Russian schoolchildren just like these in Siberia could soon be visiting Britain

meeting was the same: "Can I come to Britain?" And the answer from both Mr Baker and the Soviet authorities was equivocal. The Baker trip has laid down formal arrangements for school exchanges, which will eventually mean 1,000 pupils from each country visiting the other, but a lot more has to be done for the students. They seem to be the one academic group that has difficulty in organizing exchanges.

The rector and staff of Novosibirsk University caused consternation among education ministry officials — in constant attendance at all the Anglo-Soviet meetings —

by drawing up their own protocol for student and professional exchanges, consisting of collaboration on scientific research, the joint writing of textbooks and discussions on teaching methods, even on the curriculum.

One of the more obvious results of the visit for British education will be a re-examination of the way modern languages are taught. Nobody could fail to be impressed with the high standard of English spoken in the Soviet Union, a result of intensive language-teaching rather than literature.

This formal approach to learning does have its drawbacks. Russian students on exchange at

Bradford University, for example, find it quite difficult to work on their own in the library, having come from a system that sets them formal work for at least three hours, six days a week — and that until now has assumed that there is only one answer to a question.

A senior lecturer at the Lenin-grad teacher-training institute said that when exchange students first arrived in each other's country, the Russians spoke better English than the English spoke Russian. At the end of the courses, however, the students are assured of a job, he said. "At the end of their training they are directed to where

they are needed. British students know that the better they do in their degrees, the better jobs they will get.

"As a result, they work much harder than some of our students and many of them are well ahead by the time they leave us."

The frustrations of Russian students are echoed by the civilian scientists, who work in isolation, many of them with outdated equipment about 10 years behind that of the West. So starved are they of computer hardware that students and professors have to improvise their own. The brain power is there, the tools are not.

It is only in the past few months that the scientific institutions have been allowed to engage in joint ventures with the West. These will provide the hard currency to buy much needed equipment, as they are allowed to keep 50 per cent of any profits.

The isolation of the scientists and engineers has led them into a cul-de-sac where they are unable to develop their inventions and discoveries and are deprived of opportunities to test their theories against other brains engaged in similar work.

Mr Baker told the Siberian Academy of Sciences that it was "the fleet of foot" who succeeded. It is a message that should more properly be directed at British industry. The physicists, biochemists and geologists of Akademgorodok are only too willing to join the race. If anything, they are going too fast for some of the bureaucrats.

Self-esteem starts with a paint brush

Ask a teacher to name the profession's biggest drawback and he or she will almost certainly talk about lack of status. But the problem is all in the mind, according to researchers who have just spent two years studying schools.

The team from the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology (Umist), led by Derek Torrington, was commissioned to examine the management of secondary schools in eight local authority areas. Its conclusions, published last week, centred on the role of headteachers and senior staff, and argued that teachers at all levels needed to be more involved in policy and organizational decisions.

For Mr Torrington, the husband of a comprehensive school teacher, the study yielded interesting insights about the views that teachers have of themselves. "Teachers are intensely sensitive to any sort of criticism," he said. "The single biggest problem our researchers had was to approach teachers in such a way as to avoid a negative, defensive response."

"Teachers tend to construe everything as putting them down. But I think that this status thing is largely self-inflicted. They all talk about the days when teachers had status in society, but it is really a very long time since the parson and the teacher were the most important people in the village. Times have changed and there has been a great deal of levelling-up in our society."

"Teachers live in a fairly closed world and the only people they regularly come into contact with, the parents, treat them with great deference."

"Parents are extremely inhibited about criticizing teachers."

He said that teachers' low estimation of their status could lead to ancillary staff being treated badly to reinforce differences of rank within the school.

In one school the research team had come across a middle-aged woman with an honours degree who served as a magistrate and was working there as a part-time librarian.

Despite being "very respectable and having a good social position", she and her fellow non-teaching staff were barred from the staff room and had to drink their morning coffee from a vacuum flask under the main school staircase.

Mr Torrington said a useful index of teachers' own self-evaluation was the state of the staff room.

"Usually the staff room is the most squalid, dirty, unattractive room in the school," he said. "With a very small amount of extra effort teachers could make their staff room attractive. All it needs is some paint and some imagination."

Improving their own self-image would benefit not only teachers but the whole education system.

Douglas Broom
Education Reporter

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Oxford Executive Seminar

20 November - 2 December 1988

"My objectives in joining the seminar were threefold: Firstly a change of pace and environment; secondly an opportunity to study and discuss themes which are not given enough attention amid the usual short term pressures and thirdly to gain an insight into the key issues likely to affect the business environment in the 1990s. There was a high score of achievement on all three counts - I came with high expectations and these were amply fulfilled."

This seminar offers an annual opportunity for senior executives from various organisations and countries to review developments throughout the world with the help of eminent academic and business specialists in presentations and discussions, and with men and women of similar status, but different backgrounds, in syndicate and plenary sessions.

Current developments to be discussed will include:

- Developments in the UK Business scene as the Conservative Government moves into its third term;
- The role of the US economy under a new President who will inherit many problems;
- 1992: the challenges and the opportunities as the starting date for the "single market" approaches.

Seminar Director: Bob Vause

Seminar consultants: Sir Douglas Hague

Bill Weinstein

Price: £3100 + VAT Residential

Enquiries to Mrs Dorothy Cooke

Telephone: (0865) 735422

Telex: 83147 atn TEMCOL

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Templeton College

Oxford OX1 5NY



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DEVONSHIRE HOUSE
PREPARATORY SCHOOL,
Hampstead.

For further information and interviews please contact the School Secretary at: 2, Arkwright Road, Hampstead, London NW3 6AD. Tel: 01-435 1916

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Principal: Colin Atkinson, B.A., M.Ed., D.L.C.

SIXTH FORM
SCHOLARSHIPS 1989

Millfield School invites applications for Sixth Form Scholarships in

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25 Scholarships and Bursaries are available, valued from 25% to 80% of fees; offers will be conditional on performance at G.C.S.E. and applicants will be expected to achieve a minimum of six passes at grade 'A'.

For further details write to: The Tutor for Admissions, Ref: TM/1, Millfield School, STREET, Somerset BA16 0YD

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The British International (HMC) boarding school in the Swiss French Alps
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FOR SEPTEMBER 1989

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An Independent Headmasters' Conference co-educational day and boarding school providing courses up to GCSE, 'A' and Oxbridge entry levels. With FORM SCHOLARSHIP EXAMINATIONS

An examination for entry in September 1989 will be held on Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd November, 1988.

Scholarships, available to boys and girls, day and boarding, offer up to 50% reduction in tuition fees. The closing date for applications is Friday 11th November, 1988. Further particulars are available from the Secretary, Woodbridge School, Woodbridge, Suffolk, IP12 4JH. Telephone Woodbridge (0394) 355545.

SECRETARIAL AND COOKERY COURSES

SHORTHAND DAY RELEASE COURSES AT PITMAN CENTRAL COLLEGE. If you wish to learn shorthand and are unable to study every day, why not take advantage of our forthcoming DAY RELEASE COURSES. Suitable for company groups and private individuals. Courses start from only £100.00. BEGINNER AND REPRISER COURSES. COMMENCE IN SEPTEMBER.

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EDUCATIONAL

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UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS



UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

Applications are invited for three posts in the University's Central Administration:

Statistics Officer (Planning)

This post will be based in the Finance and Planning Office. The post-holder will be responsible for the development, maintenance and interpretation of statistics and performance indicators relevant both to the formulation of the University's strategic aims and policies and to day-to-day management. Candidates should be graduates with relevant practical experience in education, industry or commerce.

Salary according to qualifications and experience on the Administrative Grade 3 scale, (£16,345 to £19,510).

Senior Administrative Assistant

This post will be based in the Finance and Planning Office. The post-holder will assist in providing administrative support of the work of the University Court, the Council, the Finance and General Purposes Committee, the Planning Committee and the Resources Board. Candidates should be graduates with administrative experience.

Salary according to qualifications and experience on the Administrative Grade 2 scale, (£12,150 to £15,720).

Administrative Assistant

This post will be based in the Academic Office. The post-holder will assist in providing administrative support for the Boards of the Faculties of Science and Law and for a number of other committees, including the Staff/Student Council and the Student Welfare Committee. The post offers an opportunity for a new or recent graduate to embark upon a career in university administration.

Salary on the Administrative Grade 1 scale, (£8,575 to £11,580).

Further particulars of the posts listed above may be obtained from the Staffing Office (Appointments), University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH, telephone (0533) 522439. Applications on the form provided should reach the Staffing Office by 7 November 1988.

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LOUGHBOROUGH UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

Chair of Human Resource Management

Applications are invited for the above post in the expanding Department of Management Studies. The appointee will be required to develop and coordinate teaching and research in human resource management, industrial relations, personnel management and related areas, and to be active in the development of the department. This post requires a person of outstanding academic qualifications and research experience in the field of human resource management.

The appointee will be at a salary within the professional grade 2/3 scale, (£23,500 to £28,000), but subject to review from 1 April 1989.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar (Academic & General), Loughborough University, Leicestershire LE11 3TU

PREP & PUBLIC SCHOOLS

ST. MARGARET'S SCHOOL, CALNE

The Governors invite Applications for the post of

HEAD

St. Margaret's is the junior department of St. Mary's School, Calne. It is a co-educational Day School for 100 pupils from 4 to 11. There are plans to extend the School which, next year, it becomes independent of the Senior School.

The appointment will be from 1 September 1989.

Particulars of the post may be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors, St. Mary's School, Calne, Wilt. SN11 0DE. Tel: 0297 814443.

FELLOWSHIPS

The Queen's University of Belfast POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIPS

Department of Pure and Applied Physics

A postdoctoral research fellowship is available to work with Dr. G. Lewis in collaboration with Dr. S. Rose of the Laser Division, Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. The project involves studying plasmas produced by high-power lasers to investigate the atomic physics of stellar interiors. The successful applicant will work on the theoretical modelling of atomic and nuclear processes to exploit experimental optical measurements for the benefit of the astrophysical community. Experience in theoretical modelling of atomic processes or radiative transfer in either laboratory or astrophysical plasmas would be an advantage. It is expected that a considerable amount of time would be spent at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory where the computational work will be performed on the CRAY X-MP supercomputer. Please quote ref. 88/EE.

ATOMIC AND MOLECULAR PHYSICS

An SERC-funded post is available from 1 January 1989 or such other appropriate date for 2 years in the first instance. The successful applicant will join a research programme under the direction of Professor H.E. Guppy concerned with experimental studies of atomic and molecular spectroscopy by multiple charged ions in collision with atomic hydrogen and other simple targets of fundamental, astrophysical and fusion interest. Please quote ref. 88/GF.

An SERC-funded post, tenable from 1 December 1988 or such other appropriate date for 2 years in the first instance. The successful applicant will join a research programme under the direction of Professor H.E. Guppy concerned with experimental studies of atomic and molecular spectroscopy by multiple charged ions in collision with atomic hydrogen and other simple targets of fundamental, astrophysical and fusion interest. Please quote ref. 88/GF.

An EEC-funded post is tenable from 1 December 1988 or such other appropriate date for up to three years. The successful applicant will join a research programme under the direction of Professor H.E. Guppy concerned with experimental studies of atomic and molecular spectroscopy by multiple charged ions in collision with atomic hydrogen and other simple targets of fundamental, astrophysical and fusion interest. The project will also involve some collaboration with the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory. Preference will be given to applicants who are nationals of member states of the European Community other than the United Kingdom. Please quote ref. 88/HH.

For all of the above appointments applicants must hold or be about to obtain a PhD degree and appropriate research experience.

Salary scale: £9,967 - £11,882 with eligibility for USS, depending upon qualifications and experience.

Applicants should submit a curriculum vitae, including the names and addresses of two referees, to the Personnel Office, The University of Belfast, Belfast BT7 1NN. The University is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

ST PAUL'S GIRL'S SCHOOL

Rank Green London W6 7BS

OPEN MORNING

Saturday 19th November 1988

10.00 - 12.30

1. SIXTH FORM ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

will take place on Saturday 20th January and Monday 21st January 1989.

Closing date for applications: Wednesday 4th January 1989

2. FIRST YEAR AWARDS AND ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

(for those born between 1.9.77 and 31.12.78)

will take place on Thursday 9th February 1989

Closing date for applications: 2nd December 1988

3. AWARDS AND BURSARIES

First Year Awards are offered as a result of the First Year Entrance Examination (see above). Athletic Awards are also available at this time.

At Sixth Form level Scholarships and Exhibitions are awarded on the basis of an examination held in the Spring Term of the first 'A' Level year. Music, Organ and Art Awards are available at the time of entry to the Sixth Form.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ALL AWARD WINNERS MAY EXTEND TO A FULL REMISSION OF FEES IN CASES OF PROVEN FINANCIAL NEED.**4. GOVERNMENT ASSISTED PLACES**

There are ten Government Assisted Places available at entry to the First Year and five at entry to the Senior School.

Please contact the School for details of entry possibilities in the Middle School (ages 12-15).

There will be meetings at 10.30 and 11.30 for the First Year Entrance Examination and a meeting at 12.00 for the Senior School.

Tours of the School, lasting 30 minutes will begin at 10.00. The last tour will be at 11.30 a.m.

PLEASE LET THE SCHOOL KNOW IF YOU WISH TO COME TO THE OPEN MORNING.

Parents with children who are nearly 11 years are warmly invited to visit school and to hear about the extensive curricular opportunities we offer. St. Paul's can provide your child with a sound education in a caring Church School with a secure future.

See the School in Action -

Tours of the School are on:

3rd November: 4th November

7th November: 8th November

School Entrance

OR telephone Miss Thomas for an appointment

St. Paul's School, Rank Green, London W6 7BS

Telephone: 01-894 4444

Headmaster: Miss M. Thomas

Primary/Secondary Transfer arrangements

WEDNESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

OPEN EVENING

6.30 - 8.30 p.m.

Parents with children who are nearly 11 years are warmly invited to visit school and to hear about the extensive curricular opportunities we offer. St. Paul's can provide your child with a sound education in a caring Church School with a secure future.

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Telephone: 01-894 4444

Headmaster: Miss M. Thomas

Primary/Secondary Transfer arrangements

University of Sheffield

THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD LECTURESHIP IN DESIGN & MANUFACTURE

Department of Mechanical and Process Engineering

The successful applicant will join the Design & Manufacture group, and will contribute to and develop appropriate areas of teaching and research. Recent curriculum developments have placed design and manufacture in a central role involving an integrated Engineering Applications programme; group and industrial projects; and CAD/CAM. Current research interests include stress analysis, continuum damage mechanics, image analysis and CIM. Experience in the application of advanced software techniques to the design-manufacture process would be a particular advantage.

Informal enquiries should be addressed to Professor D R Hayhurst (0742-768555 ext 5441).

Salaries will be on either the Grade A or Grade B scales for non-clinical lecturers (£9,260 - £14,500 per annum or £15,105 - £19,310 per annum) according to age, qualifications and experience. Further particulars are available from the Personnel Department (Academic Staffing). The University, Sheffield S10 2TN to which applications (6 copies) should be submitted by 4 November 1988. Please quote reference R.827/7.

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THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

SENIOR FELLOWSHIPS

Applications are invited for SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS in any of the Social Sciences, including Law and Education, tenable during the academic year 1989/90. Stipends, where applicable, normally within the range £12,000 - £19,310 p.a. (Senior Research Fellowships) or £10,270 - £12,000 p.a. (Senior Junior Research Fellowships) according to qualifications and experience.

Application are invited for HALLS WORTH FELLOWSHIPS in advanced work in the field of Political Economy (including Public Administration). Stipends, where applicable, within the range £9,260 - £12,000 p.a. according to qualifications and experience.

These Fellowships are not awarded for postgraduate study and applicants should have experience which will qualify them to carry out a substantial piece of original research. Enquiries about the scope of the Fellowships are welcomed. Further particulars and application forms (returnable by December 1st, 1988) are obtainable from the Registrar (Academic Staffing), The University, Manchester M13 9PL. (Tel. 061 275 2266). Please state clearly the Fellowship details are required and quote ref. 238/89/TL. The University is an equal opportunities employer.

UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

Professorship in Sociology

Applications are invited for an

Professorship in

Sociology. The post will be filled by a scholar of international stature.

Salary will be in the Professional range: current minimum £23,380 p.a.

Applications (3 copies) should be sent to the Registrar, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL (0246) 974/69/7. Please state clearly the Fellowship details are required and quote ref. 238/89/TL. The University is an equal opportunities employer.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER

THE UNIVERSITY OF MANCHESTER

CHAIR IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND FINANCE

The University invites applications for a Chair in the Department of Accounting and Finance. No particular specialisation is sought and applications from those with expertise in any areas of accounting and/or finance are encouraged. Other Chairs in the Department are occupied by John Arnold and Robert W. Scapens. Salary will be within the normal professional range, with superannuation benefits. Applications (one copy suitable for photocopying), giving full details of qualifications and experience and the names and addresses of three persons to whom reference may be made, should be sent not later than November 21st, 1988 to the Registrar, The University, Manchester M13 9PL, from whom further particulars may be obtained. (Tel: 061-275 2028) Quote Ref. 239/88.

The University is an equal opportunities employer.

University of Reading

Appointments**PROFESSORSHIP OF SOIL SCIENCE**

Applications are invited for the Professorship of Soil Science in the Department of Soil Science. The Professorship will become vacant on the retirement of Professor A. Wild in September 1989.

Candidates should have an established reputation in Soil Science; there is no preferred area. The successful candidate will be expected to stimulate research in his or her own field and to provide leadership for developments in research and teaching throughout the Department and in collaboration with cognate disciplines.

A Research Fellowship (for a fixed term of five years) will be established in conjunction with the Professorship.

Further information may be obtained from the Registrar, Room 212, Whiteknights House, P.O. Box 217, The University, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AH (Telephone 0734-318045).

The closing date for applications is 12 December 1988.

SENIOR LECTURER/LECTURER IN ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT (2 POSTS)

University of Buckingham

Applications are invited for the above posts in this university. The posts are available from 1st January 1989, or later by arrangement.

Applicants should possess a good Honours Degree and a professional accountancy qualification. Specialisation in Management Accounting is desirable for one of the posts.

Salaries compare well with those in other U.K. universities. USS pension scheme available. Closing date for applications: 24th November 1988.

Further particulars from: The Registrar, University of Buckingham, Buckingham MK18 1EG. Tel. (0280) 814080. Ext. 2208.

The University of Buckingham

NEW COLLEGE, OXFORD Junior Research Fellowships

The College invites applications for the Junior Research Fellowships described below, tenable in each case from 1 October 1989 for three years. Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Senior Tutor, New College, Oxford, OX1 3BN. Applications must reach him not later than 12 November 1988, enclosing a curriculum vitae and stating the applicant's proposed research and the names of three referees. Applicants should request their referees to write directly to The Senior Tutor, c/o The Fellow's Secretary, letters which should arrive not later than 22 November.

Junior Research Fellowships, offered on this occasion in

Classical Languages and Literature and/or Ancient History.

Hardy Junior Research Fellowship, offered in the field of

Mathematics.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Senior Tutor, New College, Oxford, OX1 3BN. Closing date for applications: 22nd November 1988.

Further details and an application form may be obtained from the Clerk to the Governors, St. Mary's School, Calne, Wilt. SN11 0DE. Tel: 0297 814443.

St. Mary's School, Calne, Wilt. SN11 0DE

Telephone: 0297 814443

Headmaster: Miss M. Thomas

Primary/Secondary Transfer arrangements

WEDNESDAY 9TH NOVEMBER

OPEN EVENING

6.30 - 8.30 p.m.

Parents with children who are nearly 11 years are warmly invited to visit school and to hear about the extensive curricular opportunities we offer. St. Paul's can provide your child with a sound education in a caring Church School with a secure future.

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RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTSFASHION SHOWS AND
BOUTIQUE £12,000

This French designer has offices and a boutique in the West End. Your post will include attending exhibitions, organising fashion shows and acting as P.A. to the MD. Some personal work also interest in this exciting position. Shortland 80 w.p.m. Call Lynn Lait.

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You will interview and hire personnel, supervise the reception and clerical staff and organise the maintenance of the building. The company is a large publishing house and the M.D. requires a person with excellent organisational skills and a sense of humour as they have a lot of fun in between the hard work. Call Vivienne Clark.

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THE ZARAK PARTNERSHIP
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PROPERTY £13,000

From this elegant Regency house in Mayfair you will deal with major business projects on a one to one basis with your boss and be much more than a P.A. This client needs very little excuse to throw a party and you will participate in the occasional luxury business lunch. Shortland and typing essential. Call Lynn Lait.

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RECRUITMENT
SERVICES LTD

ITALIAN/FRENCH CONFERENCE Interpreting and conference services. In 1st Investment Co. good typing for own correspondence etc. Must be willing to work long hours and free to travel frequently. £14,000 + bonus. French/Italian/English/Bilingual Secretary with admin skills for Int. Trading Co. Lots of responsibility and high salary. £17,000.

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FRENCH LOCAL/Bilingual French Secretary for various in MARKETING, COSMETICS, H-TEC, AND POLYMER. £10,000-12,000. London, Slough and High Wycombe. £10,000-12,000.

BILINGUAL COLLEGE LEAVER SECs also urgently required - £2,000.

01-387 7622 or C.V. to LRS, Strade House, 45-48, Osnaburgh Street, NW1

COLLEGE
LEAVER
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Required for a busy private property investment and development company off High Street Kensington, with a Private Secretary's Certificate or Diploma for Personal Assistant course attained. A good disposition with an excellent telephone manner essential. Previous office experience is not necessary. It would be envisaged that the successful candidate would be progressed to work eventually at director level.

Basic salary £5,000 + Please apply with CV and handwritten letter to Box 444.

PA IN
ARCHITECTURE
up to £13,000

A large, friendly architectural practice in WC1 is looking for an experienced and efficient "people person" PA to work for a Senior Partner and help in new business activities and established projects. Experience in architecture is helpful, but a must is excellent typing, impeccable organisational skills, team spirit and a sense of humour.

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RECEPTIONIST
£9-£10,000

We are a small, international computer company with many overseas clients and we need an experienced Receptionist to work in our city office. You should be well spoken, smartly dressed, possess a confident manner and be willing to become an integral part of our team.

If this sounds like you, kindly telephone ROBIN HADDON on 01-498 0818

DO YOU KNOW YOUR
WORTH?SECRETARY TO
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Would you like to work for a young, busy, supercharged investment company in St James? If you have been working in a similar position for a long time, you will be interested in this exciting position. Call us now.

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MARKETING
SECRETARY
TO £11,500

Are you a good communicator? Then you will enjoy assisting two charming Marketing Directors of a major UK company with all aspects of their work. You will need good shorthand and typing and a warm personality. A knowledge of German and previous experience in Marketing would be a bonus.

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TV/THEATRE/RADIO
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Take this unique opportunity to work for a leading TV, Theatre, Film and Radio. You will be responsible for the production of TV, Theatre, Film and Radio. You will be responsible for the production of TV, Theatre, Film and Radio. You will be responsible for the production of TV, Theatre, Film and Radio.

Call us now. Bernadette of Bond St. Recruitment Consultants, 55, West End Lane, London NW6 7PE. 01-428 1224

Secretary

£12,000

Your good W/P and audio or S/H skills will secure you a bright future with this PLC Co. Lovely offices and friendly crowd await a capable and flexible person who is ready to take more responsibility.

Secretary

£Up to £12,000

Young person to assist two lovely professionals. Good W/P and S/H and willing to "much in." Great offices in West End and good package for someone who likes to be kept busy.

Secretary/Admin Asst

£9,000

Fantastic offices and young friendly crowd require additional person for general admin and secretarial duties. W/P and audio.

Receptionist

£9,000

This professional Co. need a young presentable person for busy reception and easy switchboard. Lovely surroundings and great crowd, typing would be very useful.

We have many more interesting vacancies, give us a call now!

Crystalline Recruitment, Jade House, 3 Park Street, London SE1 9AB

01-357 6601

LANSOWNE COLLEGE requires an

ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATOR

to support Academic Dean and lecturers in independent university college.

Excellent secretarial skills essential, must be well organised, articulate and able to work under pressure. Educational background preferred.

Apply in writing to: The Academic Dean, Lansdowne College, 3/5 Palace Road, London W6 5LS

Secretary/PA required for Architectural and Interior Designers studios in Ladbroke Grove/Holland Park area. Duties include complete management & organisation of the office and two busy executives. Using IBM Multimate WP. Salary £12,000. Phone Mr Finch (01) 229 4269

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Small office in quiet garden square near Victoria station. The work is varied and challenging and involves both personal and professional duties. Salary not less than £12,000 p.a.

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SCANDINAVIAN MARKETING ASSISTANT

To £14,000 + mortgage

International City Bank are urgently looking for an assistant in the marketing dept dealing with Nordic countries and the USA. Fluency in any two Scandinavian languages essential. 'A' level or graduate education preferred and some experience needed. Age range 18/30. Bank benefits and 5% mort. STI, BUPA, bonus and staff restaurant.

Call Anna on 606 2411 C & S Personnel

ENGLISH/PA required for Architectural and Interior Designers studios in Ladbroke Grove/Holland Park area. Duties include complete management & organisation of the office and two busy executives. Using IBM Multimate WP. Salary £12,000. Phone Mr Finch (01) 229 4269

Private Secretary IDEALLY AGED 28-40

Small office in quiet garden square near Victoria station. The work is varied and challenging and involves both personal and professional duties. Salary not less than £12,000 p.a.

Tel: 01-720 5873

SCANDINAVIAN MARKETING ASSISTANT

To £14,000 + mortgage

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SUPER SECRETARIES

01-491 1868

Judy Farquharson Limited

47 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9HA. 01-493 8824

PERSONNEL ADMINISTRATOR

For highly regarded creative London management consultants. Good experience in recruitment, pensions, cars, records. Age 28+, a calm, sensitive person able to deal with people & their queries tactfully. 0215-617K.

JFL RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS

SENIOR SECRETARY REQUIRED

To work for a partner in commercial estate agency in our new office at Devon St. Mayfair. This is a responsible position - applicants should have a full grasp of modern technology together with the ability to handle clients etc. Age is irrelevant - a mature person would be most acceptable.

In the first instance contact Mrs Andrew Davies, Effort Son & Boyton 79 Wimpole Street, London W1M 8BP. Tel: 01-487 4401

QED PERSONNEL £20,000 + CAR

Based on the Surrey/Cheshire Personnel Manager for the UK we are seeking to recruit a person with a proven track record in recruitment, a sound knowledge of the Employment Law and Unions, essential, ages 30+.

01 493 3314

Calm, Flexible?

Able to cope with both emotional and mundane tasks equally well? In an EC2 Computer Company is looking for a PA to the Chairman and Finance Director. Skills 60/90 (many shorthand accounts) typing, Duplicating, A, a range of duties to include arranging travel and appointments, dealing with visitors, liaising with other departments internally. These are busy times and frequently absent from the office. Hours 9.00 - 5.30. Salary £12,000 p.a. (plus profit share, BUPA, Life Assurance, Pension Scheme, Season Ticket Loan. Please call Susan Milne on tel. 01-247 5901 for more details.

SECRETARY/PA

for a small South Kensington based trading company. Applicants must have good all round secretarial skills, cheerful personality, sense of humour & a good telephone manner. Salary £10,000. Please phone Lupton on 01-370 1381

BANKING £20,000 package

This prestigious post is open to secretaries with min. 2 'A' levels, excellent secretarial skills, city banking experience and age 25-35. You will be PA to the MD of a City Bank and this promises to be a thoroughly interesting and challenging role.

043 155/2883 Dulcie Simpson Appts

EXECUTIVE CREME

EXECUTIVE PA £18,000 + Free travel

The international Tokyo based company has set up its London office in prestigious Henrietta Street. The company is looking for a PA to the Managing Director. The PA will be responsible for the day to day running of the office, including the Managing Director's diary, correspondence, travel arrangements, etc. Salary £18,000 p.a. plus free travel. Please call 01-493 8824

SECRETARY

with knowledge of shorthand typing for a firm of accountants in the W1 area required. Salary negotiable. Contact Mr. Jamal on 01 531 1122.

MASTERLOCK RECYCLIMENT 01-938 1846/1718

TEMPING TIMES

SUSAN HAMILTON PERSONNEL (KNIGHTSBRIDGE)

KNIGHTSBRIDGE TEMPS

Susan Hamilton Personnel has opened a new office at 93 KNIGHTSBRIDGE, SW1 (next to the Sheraton Park Tower Hotel - corner of William Street).

GO for change GO for top rates GO for 100% commitment to your needs.

Telephone Sue Aggar on TODAY

93 KNIGHTSBRIDGE LONDON SW1 01-235 7114

Mina Reception

TEMPORARY RECEPTIONISTS

We have a selection of part time receptionists available for hire. They are all experienced, friendly and efficient. They will be happy to assist you in any way they can. Please call 01-493 8824

WARR Vt operates administrative & clerical services in the City. We have a selection of part time receptionists available for hire. They are all experienced, friendly and efficient. They will be happy to assist you in any way they can. Please call 01-493 8824

PUBLISHED/Accounts/PA for 60/90

Temporary/PA for 60/90/100/120/150/180/200/250/300/350/400/450/500/550/600/650/700/750/800/850/900/950/1000/1100/1200/1300/1400/1500/1600/1700/1800/1900/2000/2100/2200/2300/2400/2500/2600/2700/2800/2900/3000/3100/3200/3300/3400/3500/3600/3700/3800/3900/4000/4100/4200/4300/4400/4500/4600/4700/4800/4900/5000/5100/5200/5300/5400/5500/5600/5700/5800/5900/6000/6100/6200/6300/6400/6500/6600/6700/6800/6900/7000/7100/7200/7300/7400/7500/7600/7700/7800/7900/8000/8100/8200/8300/8400/8500/8600/8700/8800/8900/9000/9100/9200/9300/9400/9500/9600/9700/9800/9900/10000/10100/10200/10300/10400/10500/10600/10700/10800/10900/11000/11100/11200/11300/11400/11500/11600/11700/11800/11900/12000/12100/12200/12300/12400/12500/12600/12700/12800/12900/13000/13100/13200/13300/13400/13500/13600/13700/13800/13900/14000/14100/14200/14300/14400/14500/14600/14700/14800/14900/15000/15100/15200/15300/15400/15500/15600/15700/15800/15900/16000/16100/16200/16300/16400/16500/16600/16700/16800/16900/17000/17100/17200/17300/17400/17500/17600/17700/17800/17900/18000/18100/18200/18300/18400/18500/18600/18700/18800/18900/19000/19100/19200/19300/19400/19500/19600/19700/19800/19900/20000/20100/20200/20300/20400/20500/20600/20700/20800/20900/21000/21100/21200/21300/21400/21500/21600/21700/21800/21900/22000/22100/22200/22300/22400/22500/22600/22700/22800/22900/23000/23100/23200/23300/23400/23500/23600/23700/23800/23900/24000/24100/24200/24300/24400/24500/24600/24700/24800/24900/25000/25100/25200/25300/25400/25500/25600/25700/25800/25900/26000/26100/26200/26300/26400/26500/26600/26700/26800/26900/27000/27100/27200/27300/27400/27500/27600/27700/27800/27900/28000/28100/28200/28300/28400/28500/28600/28700/28800/28900/29000/29100/29200/29300/29400/29500/29600/29700/29800/29900/30000/30100/30200/30300/30400/30500/30600/30700/30800/30900/31000/31100/31200/31300/31400/31500/31600/31700/31800/31900/32000/32100/32200/32300/32400/32500/32600/32700/32800/32900/33000/33100/33200/33300/33400/33500/33600/33700/33800/33900/34000/34100/34200/34300/34400/34500/34600/34700/34800/34900/35000/35100/35200/35300/35400/35500/35600/35700/35800/35900/36000/36100/36200/36300/36400/36500/36600/36700/36800/36900/37000/37100/37200/37300/37400/37500/37600/37700/37800/37900/38000/38100/38200/38300/38400/38500/38600/38700/38800/38900/39000/39100/39200/39300/39400/39500/39600/39700/39800/39900/40000/40100/40200/40300/40400/40500/40600/40700/40800/40900/41000/41100/41200/41300/41400/41500/41600/41700/41800/41900/42000/42100/42200/42300/42400/42500/42600/42700/42800/42900/43000/43100/43200/43300/43400/43500/43600/43700/43800/43900/44000/44100/44200/44300/44400/44500/44600/44700/44800/44900/45000/45100/45200/45300/45400/45500/45600/45700/45800/45900/46000/46100/46200/46300/46400/46500/46600/46700/46800/46900/47000/47100/47200/47300/47400/47500/47600/4770

1. The first step in the process is to identify the problem or issue that needs to be addressed. This involves gathering information and understanding the context of the problem.

